

Using Baths and Showers to Water Your Flowers

Instructions for a simple method to syphon your used bath or shower water onto your garden

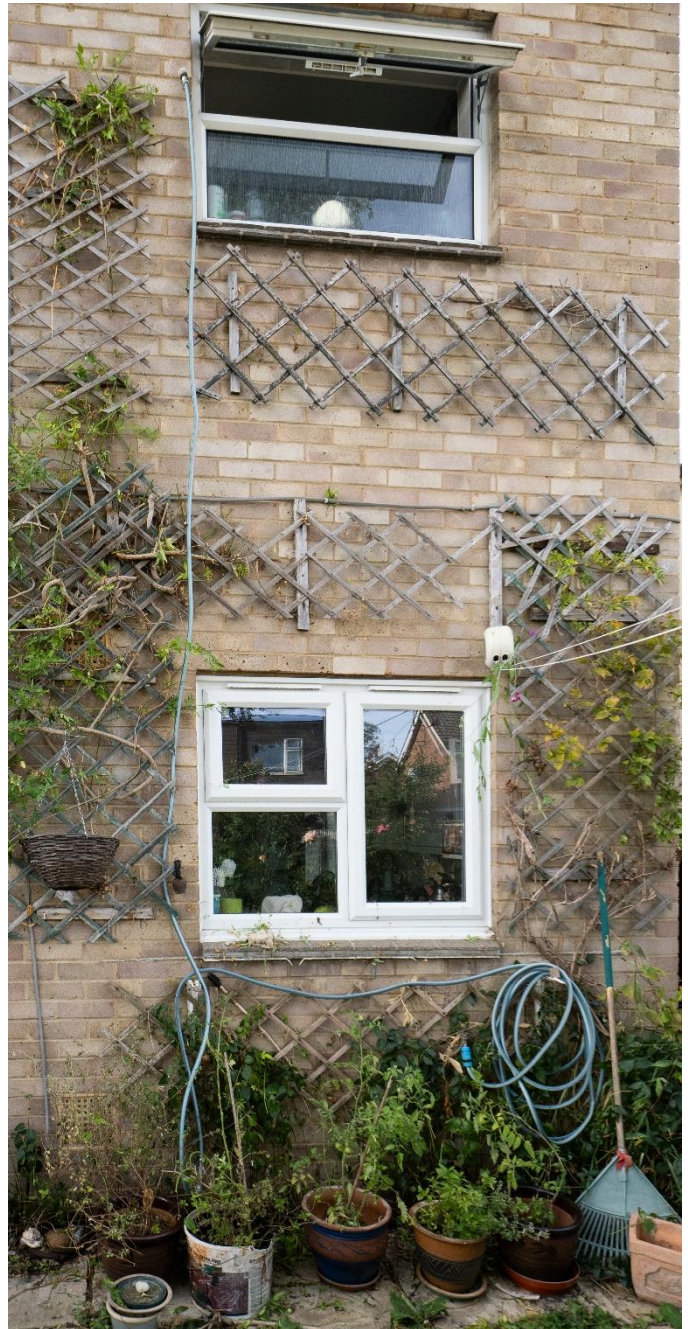
This picture shows the basic setup for the hose and outside tap.

The hose is connected to the outside tap just below the downstairs window.

The other end of the hose is held in a 'cuphook' just outside the bathroom window.

Make sure there is enough slack left in the hose to allow it to be pulled into the bathroom window and submerged to the bottom of the bath or shower 'trug'.

It is ideal to have the outside tap on the same side of the house as the bathroom window. If it isn't you'll just need a longer hose.

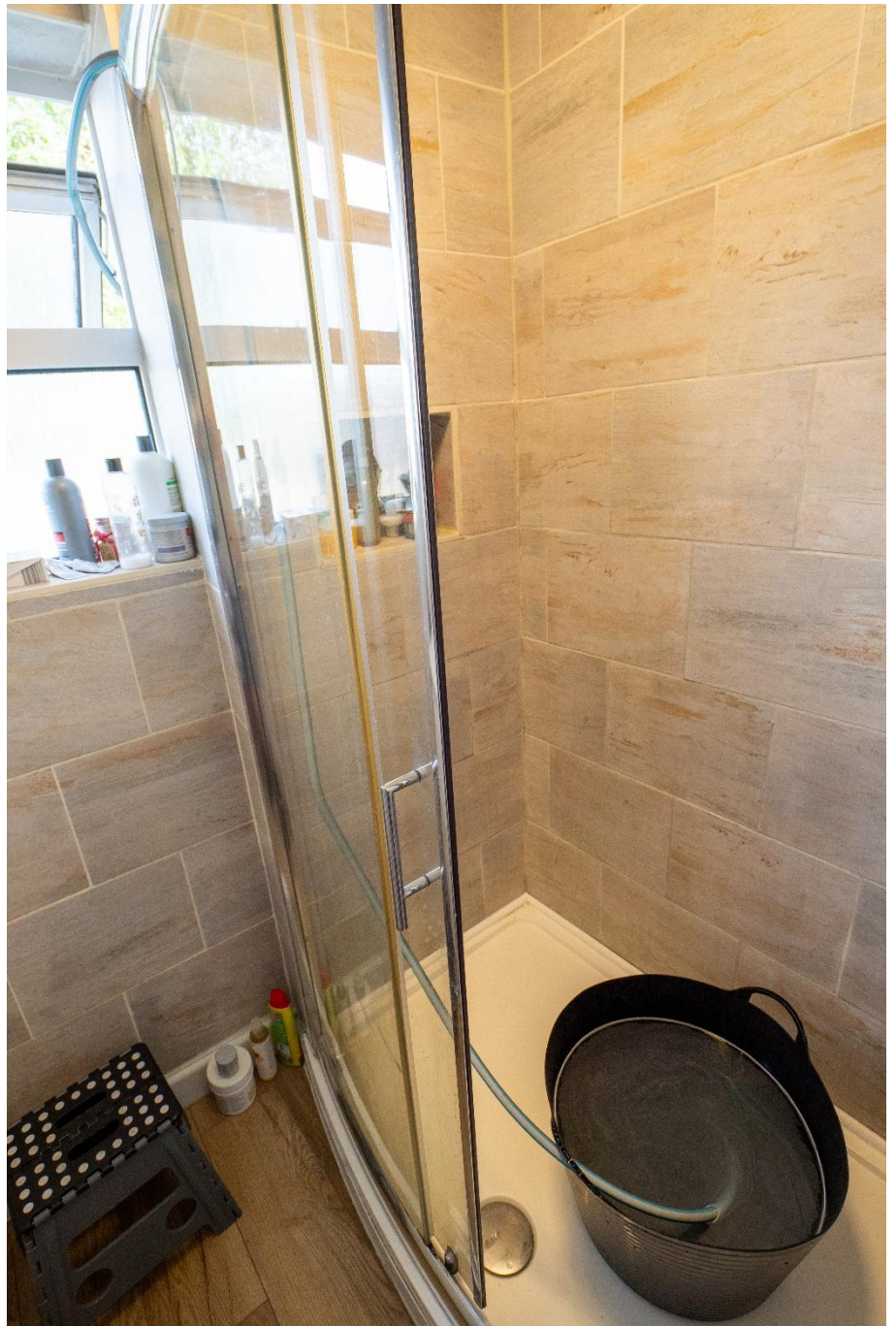


A cup hook screwed into the brickwork just outside the bathroom window makes the hose easy to pull into the bathroom when it is needed.

I use a screw-in filter to stop hair and other debris blocking the hose.

Pull the hose into the bathroom and thread it through one of the handles of the garden trug.

Make sure that the end of the hose is seated at the bottom of the trug...



...Clip the hose into the cuphook outside the window so that it won't shoot out of the water when the outside tap is turned on.

Switch on the outside tap for about 5 seconds...



...until the bubbles stop and the hose is full of water.



Switch off the outside tap and disconnect the hose.



Connect the spray attachment ...



...and the water should immediately start to flow.



Essential Safety Rules for using greywater

- **Use immediately:** Never store greywater for more than **24 hours**, as harmful bacteria multiply quickly in standing wastewater.
- **Target ornamentals only:** Apply the water strictly to the soil base of established trees, shrubs, and ornamental flowers.
- **Avoid edible crops:** Do not use bathwater on fruits, vegetables, or herbs due to pathogen and soap residue risks.
- **Watch the soap:** Avoid harsh chemical detergents or bleach-based cleaners. Mild, biodegradable soaps are safest for soil microbes.
- **Protect acid-loving plants:** Avoid using soapy greywater on plants that love acidic soil (like azaleas, blueberries, or rhododendrons) because soap raises alkalinity.

(Royal Horticultural Society)

For further information on using grey water:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/gardening-in-a-changing-world/water-use-in-gardens/using-grey-water>



If you decide to give this a go, and anything is not clear or you would like any help with setting it up you can contact me on pfchristie@gmail.com .