

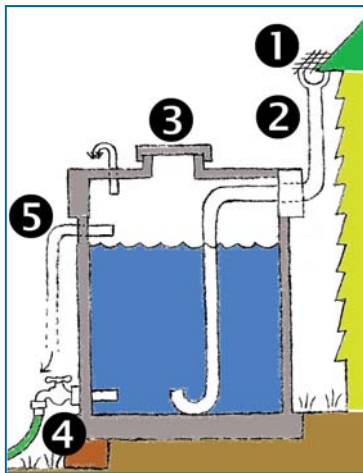
Rainwater Catchment

CISTERNS

Cisterns are larger than rain barrels, ranging from 300 gallons to thousands of gallons. A basic system used for irrigation typically includes:

- Fully screened gutters (1),
- Downspouts and piping (2),
- A fully closed storage tank (3),
- A spigot and/or hose bibb (4), and
- An overflow pipe (5).

A cistern should never be connected to your home's plumbing.



NOTE: If your storage tank is less than 5,000 gallons and is above ground, no permits are required. If your system includes new wiring for a pump, or will be installed underground or on a roof, you will need a building permit.

Disclaimer:

This brochure is intended as a general reference tool and in no way supersedes statutory law or rules in your City or County.

SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE

Be sure your rain barrel or cistern is sited on a stable, flat area near your downspout. Keep your system free of debris and maintain all screens to prevent mosquito breeding. Clean your rain barrel or cistern with a non-toxic cleaner such as vinegar. If you notice a bad smell, treat the water with chlorine bleach (Clorox) 1½ cups per 1000 gallons. Label all



rainwater collection system pipes and fixtures: NON POTABLE WATER, DO NOT DRINK. Go to www.WaterAwareness.org for a printable label.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

If you are interested in learning more about rainwater collection, please contact us:

[Place sponsoring organization's logo
Contact name,
Organization,
Address
Phone, Fax, E-mail
Web site]

Learn more about local water conservation efforts and resources at:
www.WaterAwareness.org

Learn more about graywater systems and installation at:
www.EcoAct.org

Rainwater Catchment in Monterey County

A Homeowner's Guide to Capture and Re-use of Rainwater



www.WaterAwareness.org



An initiative of the Monterey County Business Council's Competitive Clusters (C²) program.

Rainwater Catchment

WHAT IS RAINWATER CATCHMENT?

Rainwater Catchment is saving normally wasted water and reusing it for irrigation or other non-potable (non-drinkable) uses. We can reuse rainwater, graywater and reclaimed water if we follow some simple rules.



SOURCES OF NON-POTABLE WATER

- **RAINWATER:** Water that falls as rain, and then is collected as catchment water from your roof or other hard surfaces.
- **GRAYWATER:** Wastewater from bathroom sinks, showers, baths, laundry or car washes. See www.EcoAct.org for more information on using graywater.
- **BLACKWATER:** Wastewater from your toilet, kitchen sink or dishwasher. Blackwater may not be reused without municipal treatment at the local sewage plant.
- **RECLAIMED WATER:** Municipally treated sewage that meets California regulations for reuse as landscape irrigation.

Rainwater Rooftop Catchment Estimation:

Avg rooftop of 1500 Sq Ft x Avg rainfall in Monterey of 15 in/yr = **14,027 gallons/yr**

WHY SHOULD WE COLLECT RAINWATER?

Rainwater collection is older than the Roman Empire, and is growing in popularity as people look for ways to use water resources more wisely. Monterey County would like to promote rainwater collection to help stretch our limited water supplies. When you install a rainwater catchment system at home, you are helping to maintain the beauty and health of your property, and of the Monterey Bay region.



By collecting and using rainwater you are:

- Slowing downspout water run-off and reducing peak storm water flows;
- Reducing the volume of drinking water used for non-potable uses such as irrigation; and
- Saving money by reducing the amount of water you have to buy from the water company.

GETTING STARTED

Rainwater can be collected from most types of rooftops. Roofs painted with lead-based paint or paint containing fungicide would have to be recoated with paint approved for the intended use. The first step is to clean your roof, disconnect your downspout, and connect it to a storage container. Your storage container needs an overflow pipe, which should be routed away from the house.

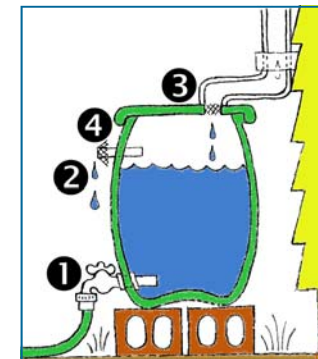
RAIN BARRELS

Rain barrels are just that, a barrel to catch the rainwater coming off your roof. They are inexpensive, easy to install and maintain, and good for small scale residential sites. They typically hold from 50 to 300 gallons, and are mostly used for watering plants.

SYSTEM COMPONENTS

A rain barrel should have:

- A spigot and/or a hose bibb (1) so that you can access the water;
- An overflow pipe (2) routed away from the house;
- A sealed and screened lid (3) with an opening for your drainpipe; and
- Screens on all vents (4).



See www.WaterAwareness.org for a list of local places that sell rain barrels.

NOTE: No permit is required for a rain barrel. A rain barrel should never be connected to your home's plumbing.