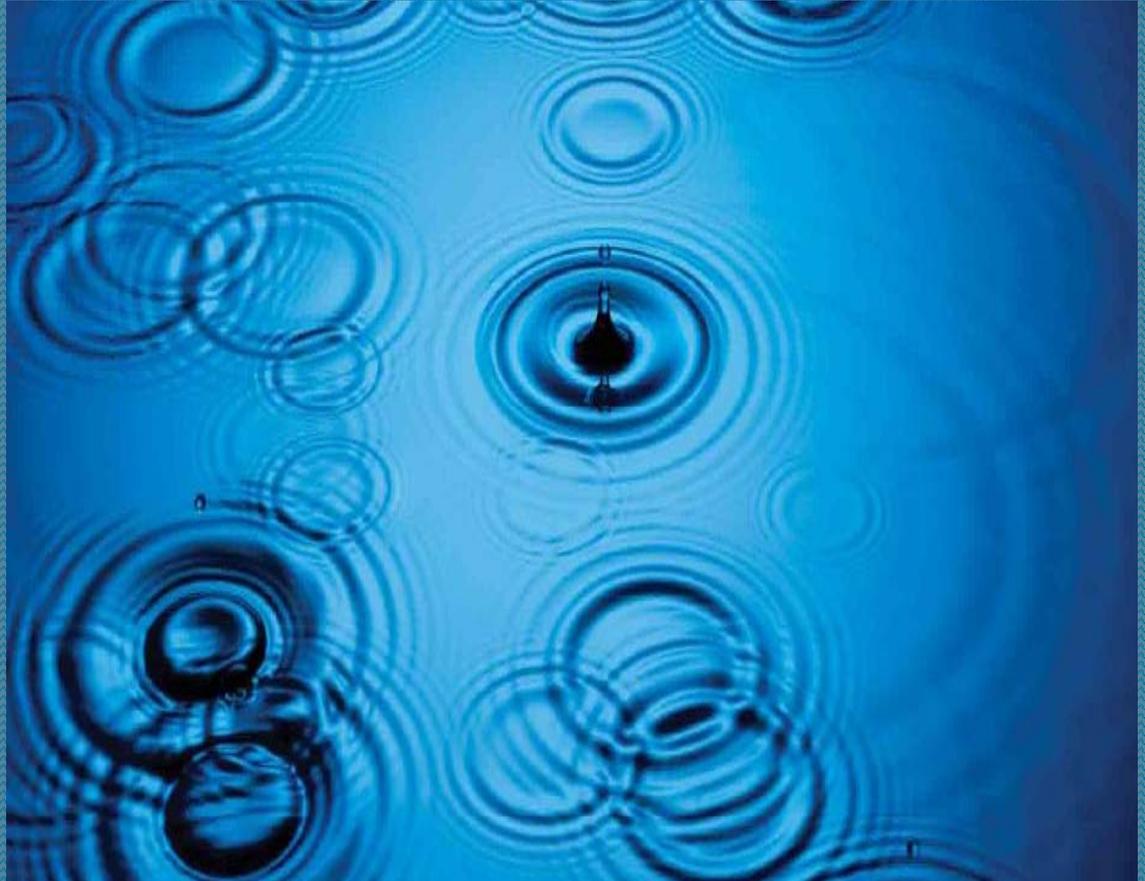


Rainwater Harvesting

How do we harvest rainwater and why should we.

Why Harvest Rainwater?

- Decrease the volume of potable water used for irrigation.
- Recharge the groundwater.
- Decrease the burden on your well or municipal water system.
- Reduce flooding and sewer discharge.



How to Harvest Rainwater

So you're convinced that you want to start collecting rainwater at your home. Even though rainwater catchment is an old technology, there have been many improvements over time through product innovations.



Components of Rainwater Harvesting

The system mainly consists of the following components:

- A) Catchments
- B) Transportation
- C) First Flush
- D) Filter



Catchment

Catchments are the surfaces that receives rainfall directly. It may be a roof, terrace, courtyard or open ground.



Transportation

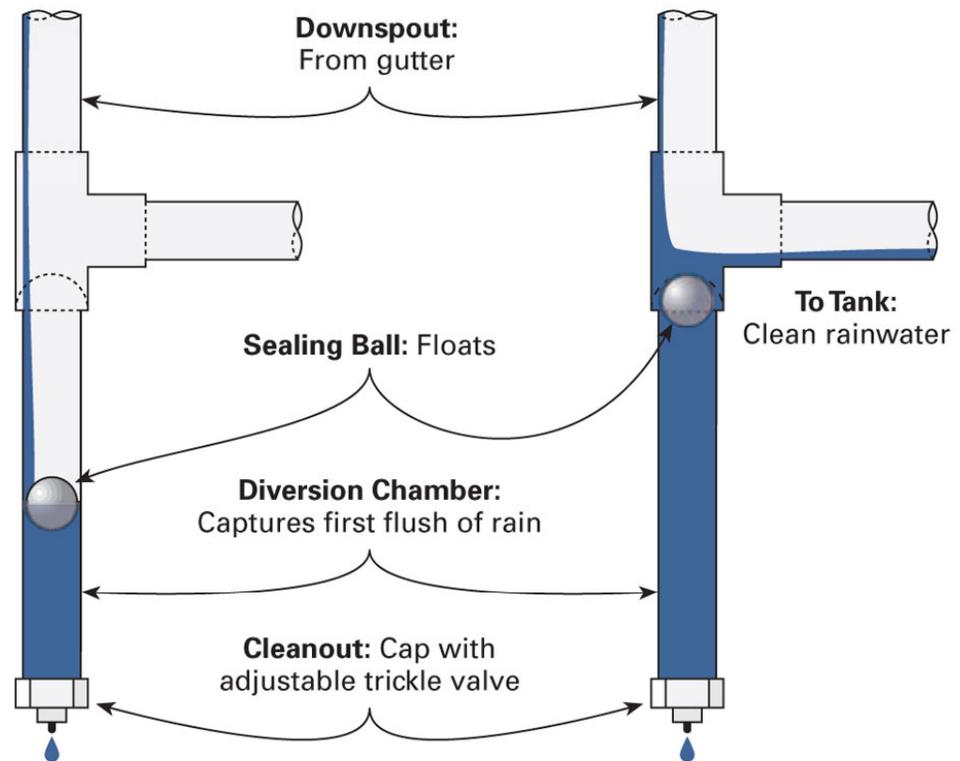
Transportation would be the drains, down spouts, gutters that transport the water to your holding tank.



First Flush

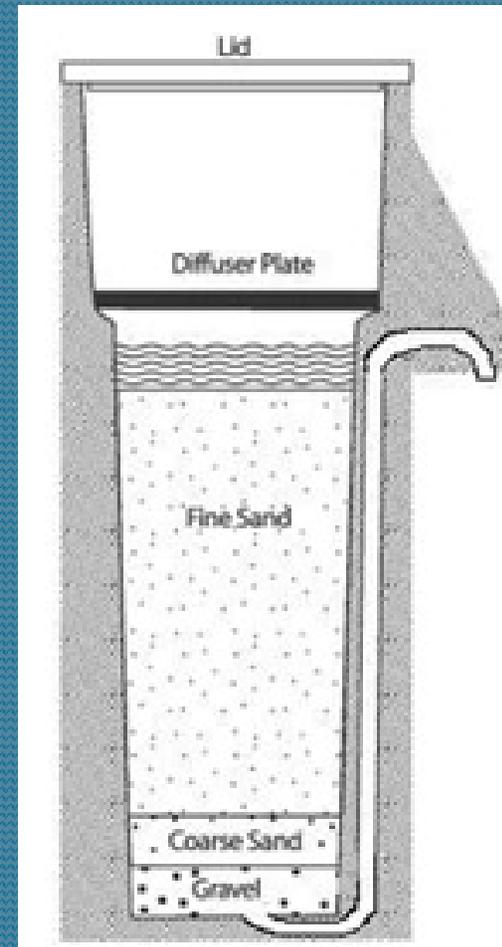
First Flush is a device used to flush off the water from the first rain shower. The First Flush prevents accumulated debris and contaminants from the dry months from entering your holding tank. Usually this water is allowed to drip and irrigate landscaping.

First-Flush Diversion



Filter

Filters are used for treatment of water to remove turbidity, color and microorganisms. You can make your own filter using sand, gravel and even charcoal or you can purchase a rainwater filter pre made to install on your system.



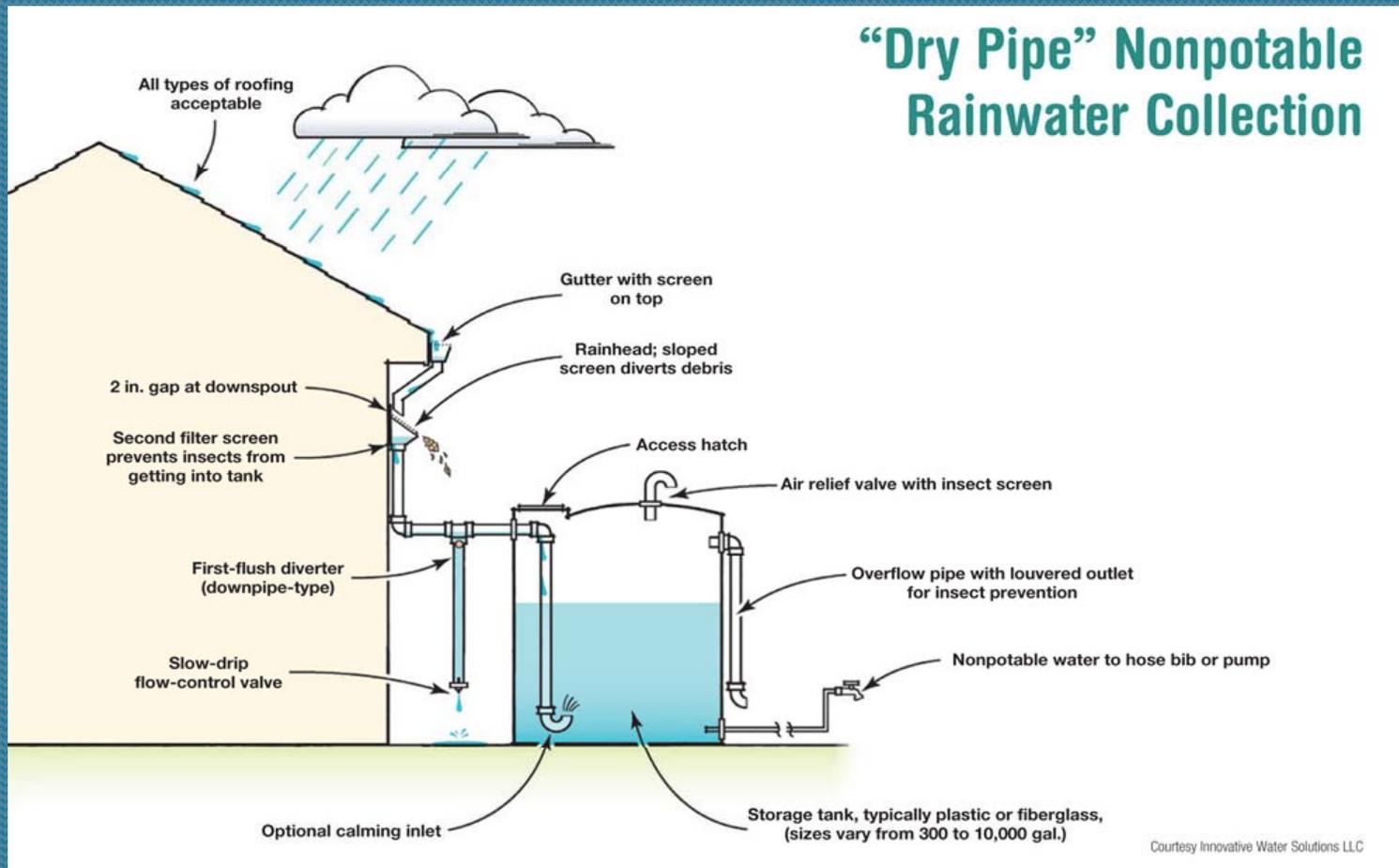
Rainwater Uses...

There are many uses for the rainwater harvested on your property. Drinking is not recommended unless the water is filtered and purified and chlorinated.

- A) Use rainwater to irrigate your garden or your landscape. Completely safe to use on root vegetables.
- B) May be used to flush toilets .
- C) Can be used to wash cars.
- D) May be used for any purpose that you would normally use water for outside around your home.



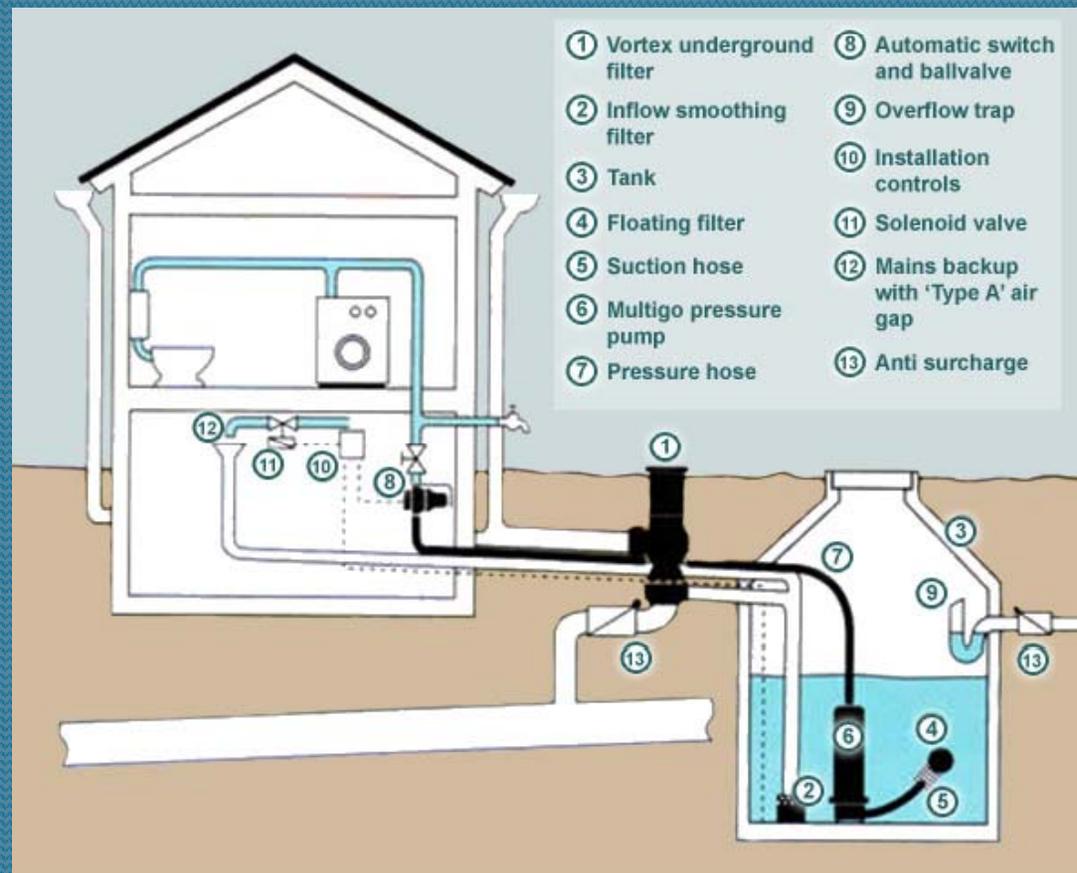
Typical Rainwater System



Building Permits

A simple gravity flow system with a holding tank of less than 5,000 gallons would not require a building permit. A 5,000 gallon or more holding tank would require a building permit due to the weight of the water stored and the foundation required to support the tank.

A more complex system using pumps, switches and electrical connections to pressurize the system, will require a building permit for the electrical portion of work. If a 5,000 gallon holding tank is being used, then a permit will be required for both the electrical portion of work and the foundation the tank will rest on.



Rainwater Harvesting

55 Gallon Barrels..... or

2500 Gallon Tank or more!



Combining Rainwater Harvesting with Grey Water Recycling will dramatically reduce the amount of water used from your well or from the municipal water system depending on the amount of Grey Water produced and Rainwater Harvested.

These options are not for everyone. As with all systems, there will be maintenance schedules in order to keep these systems working in good order. Depending on the complexity of your system, this may be an annual check of the system to be sure all is working well, or it could be a once a month checkup and filter cleaning.

Used properly, both systems are safe and an excellent method of reducing potable water use!

