

# RAINWATER HARVESTING

**Save money and help the environment**

## WHAT IS RAINWATER HARVESTING

**For thousands of years**, people have been collecting rainwater. This simple technology continues to be used today around the world to provide water for drinking, irrigation and other non-potable uses. Collection systems range from 10,000-gallon cisterns to 40-gallon rain barrels, and rainwater harvesting has both residential and commercial applications.

## SAVE WATER AND MONEY

**An average household** in Abbotsford BC with a 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> roof over their heads can harvest enough water in an average year to meet the water demands of 2.63 household members. The City of Abbotsford uses a 35,000 litre storage system to harvest up to 868,000 litres of rainwater per year. This water is used for Parks and Works irrigation.

At the LEED Certified Richmond Olympic Oval, the roof doubles as a massive rainfall recovery system which directs rainwater into the building to supplement toilet flushing. The remainder flows into a rainfall collection pond in front of the Oval where it is used to irrigate surrounding trees and landscaping. This system reduces the facility's water consumption by 25%.

## HOW WE CAN USE RAINWATER

**Captured rainwater** can be used for both potable (drinkable) and non-potable purposes, both inside and outside a home or business. Outdoor uses include watering landscaping, and to provide water for pets, wildlife and livestock. Collecting rainwater can reduce storm water runoff and assist in water quality protection, as well.

Indoor uses include toilet flushing and clothes washing. Rainwater is often a forgotten resource for these uses, and can significantly reduce the amount of treated drinking water needed to complete these tasks. Additionally, the process of designing and installing a rainwater collection system is often much less expensive than drilling a well.



## LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

**Rainwater does not contain ammonia, fluoride or chlorine**, so it is better for your plants. When using rainwater for landscaping, drip irrigation is the most practical. Supply can be provided by gravity pressure or by a pump.

## WATER FOR HOME AND BUSINESS

**The average North American** uses approximately 101 gallons of water per day for both indoor and outdoor uses. Rainwater can supply many homes worldwide with an abundant supply of quality, soft, safe water for drinking, toilet flushing and clothes washing. Using rainwater to meet these needs can significantly reduce drinking water requirements from your municipal water supplier.

## RESIDENTIAL APPLICATIONS

**Most municipalities in the Lower Mainland** have moved or are moving to metered water, which means users will pay based on consumption. This translates into a direct financial incentive for households to implement rainwater harvesting to save money. Recreational properties are also prime candidates for rainwater harvesting, especially where water sources are less reliable.

## COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS

**Most commercial and institutional properties** already pay for their water based on consumption, so rainwater harvesting makes financial sense. It also provides the opportunity to lead by example, as evidenced by the City of Abbotsford's commitment to rainwater harvesting.

# COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Our Commitment to Excellence Program guarantees the quality, reliability and durability of your system, and covers planning, product selection, installation, service and warranty.

## ACCREDITATIONS

We are active members of the Canadian Association of Rainwater Management, the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association, and our Vice President, David Pfortmueller, is an Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense Partner.

## WARRANTY

All of our systems are backed by a one (1) year warranty covering labour and a two (2) year warranty covering parts. Our head office can be contacted year-round.

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