**What are the Benefits of Rainwater Collection?**

1. Rainwater is a relatively clean and absolutely free source of water
2. You have total control over your water supply (ideal for cities with water restrictions)
3. It is socially acceptable and environmentally responsible
4. It promotes self-sufficiency and helps conserve water
5. Rainwater is better for landscape plants and gardens because it is not chlorinated
6. It reduces stormwater runoff from homes
7. It can solve the drainage problems on your property while providing you with free water
8. It uses simple technologies that are inexpensive and easy to maintain
9. It can be used as a main source of water or as a backup source to wells and municipal water
10. The system can be easily retrofitted to an existing structure or built during new home construction
11. System are very flexible and can be modular in nature, allowing expansion, reconfiguration, or relocation, if necessary
12. It can provide an excellent back-up source of water for emergencies.

Not enough benefits for you?  Discover more [rainwater harvesting advantages](https://www.watercache.com/faqs/rainwater-harvesting-benefits).

**Advantages of Rainwater Harvesting**

The advantages of the rainwater harvesting system are listed below.

1. Less cost.
2. Helps in reducing the water bill.
3. Decreases the demand for water.
4. Reduces the need for imported water.
5. Promotes both water and energy conservation.
6. Improves the quality and quantity of groundwater.
7. Does not require a filtration system for landscape irrigation.
8. This technology is relatively simple, easy to install and operate.
9. It reduces soil erosion, stormwater runoff, flooding, and pollution of surface water with fertilizers, pesticides, metals and other sediments.
10. It is an excellent source of water for landscape irrigation with no chemicals, dissolved salts and free from all minerals.
11. It can be used for watering gardens in our homes and crop plants in agricultural fields.
12. Water harvesting practices are the key for [dry land farming](https://www.agriculturewale.com/types-of-farming-system-of-farming/) in arid and semi-arid regions.

**Disadvantages of Rainwater Harvesting**

In addition to the great advantages, the rainwater harvesting system has a few disadvantages like unpredictable rainfall, unavailability of the proper storage system, etc.

1. Regular maintenance is required.
2. Requires some technical skills for installation.
3. Limited and no rainfall can limit the supply of rainwater.
4. If not installed correctly, it may attract mosquitoes and other waterborne diseases.
5. One of the significant drawbacks of the rainwater harvesting system is storage limits.

**WATER HARVESTING FOR AGRICULTURE**

1. Normally water harvesting is practiced in arid and semi- arid regions for [agriculture](https://www.agriculturewale.com/what-is-agriculture-history-of-agriculture/) and it is more effective in areas situated near hillside or where cultivation is difficult due to large portion of bare soil.
2. To enhance [irrigation](https://www.agriculturewale.com/what-is-irrigation/) in arid environments, ridges of soil are constructed to collect and prevent rainwater from running down hills and slopes. Water can be collected from roofs, dams and ponds can be constructed to hold large quantities of rainwater so that at the time of little or no rainfall occurs, enough is available to irrigate growing crops.
3. WH enables [farmers](https://www.agriculturewale.com/types-of-farmers-government-initiatives/) to store water when it is plentiful and make it available when it is scarce. Three categories of small-scale storage can be distinguished: **(1)** soil moisture storage **(2)** groundwater storage and **(3)** surface storage.

**Uses for Harvested Rainwater**

**1. Drinking and Cooking Purposes**

Rainwater is one of the safest natural drinking water sources if collected and stored properly in clean containers. Surface runoff contains dust and humic substances that the water came in contact with during collection. Only the precipitation falling from the sky after the first flush should be considered for drinking directly, not the surface runoff without proper treatment.

**2. Irrigation**

Rainwater is mostly free from harmful chemicals. Hence if it is used for irrigation, it will save groundwater levels from diminishing rapidly.

**3. Gardening**

As rainwater is a non-chlorinated natural source, it is free from toxic substances like trihalomethanes. So, rainwater is good for plants or gardening purposes.

**4. Toilet flush, washing, and cleaning**

These activities require a considerable amount of water. Rainwater without treatment can be used for these.

**5. Car Washing**

Washing cars with rainwater is considered environmentally friendly as it does not pollute groundwater.

**6. Aquariums**

Aquariums can be filled with rainwater as it does not contain chemicals that can harm aquatic creatures.

**7. Firefighting**

Rainwater can be used for firefighting as it does not contain chemicals that will react with the firefighting foam.

**8. Industry**

In industries, rainwater can be used for cooling towers, boiler feedwater, process water, and washing.

**9. Construction**

In construction sites, rainwater can be used for mixing concrete, brick making, and dust suppression.

**10. Sanitary Purposes**

In some areas, rainwater is the only source of water available for sanitary purposes.

**11. Wastewater Treatment**

Rainwater can be used in wastewater treatment plants to supplement the water needed for the treatment process.

**12. Aquaculture**

Rainwater can be used in aquaculture farms to rear fish and other aquatic creatures.

**13. Drinking Water for Animals**

Rainwater can be used as drinking water for animals.

**14. Composting**

Water is essential for proper decomposition of your compost pile. Make sure you water your compost with the rest of your garden. Harvested rainwater is also good for compost tea. Home Composting Made Easy describes a simple way to make compost tea.

**15. Rinsing vegetables**

Dirty rainwater is great for rinsing vegetables straight from your garden, especially root vegetables. Try filling a large bucket with rainwater, adding some carrots, potatoes, beets or other hard vegetables, and swish them together to knock the soil off.

**16. Bathing and laundry**

Washing clothes accounts for about 22 percent of indoor water use in the United States. Showers take 17 percent, and baths 2 percent. If you used harvested rainwater for all of these, you could reduce your municipal water use by over 40 percent. Depending on how clean you want your washing water, you could use either treated or untreated rainwater. SFGate has some suggestions on how you can treat rainwater to use for showering

This is another huge water drain. Toilets use almost 27 percent of water in your home. To use collected rainwater instead, try keeping a bucket of it next to your toilet. When you need to flush, pour the rainwater straight into the bowl of the toilet. This will automatically flush your toilet. Make sure your bucket can hold the amount of your toilet’s tank. For instance, if you have a toilet with a 6 gallon (22.7 liter) tank, use at least a 6 gallon bucket of water

**17. Miscellaneous**

Other uses of rainwater include laundry, washing vehicles, and general cleaning purposes.