

# Rainwater Harvesting



## Rainwater Harvesting – What Is It?

Rooftop rainwater harvesting is the collection, conveyance, storage, and distribution of natural rainwater for non-potable applications. Instead of storm water immediately running from roofs into sewers, it gets collected and stored for later use, such as:

- Landscape irrigation
- Fire suppression
- Toilet flushing
- Industrial processing
- Vehicle washing
- Building washing/power washing
- Cooling towers
- Pool/pond filling
- Laundry washing
- Household cleaning

Rainwater harvesting systems serve as an alternative decentralized water source, that are especially effective in an age when groundwater supplies are depleting and municipal water infrastructures are facing high replacement costs.

Rainwater harvesting is ideal for large commercial and industrial buildings, especially ones with expansive parking lots, and can be retro-fitted to existing buildings or integrated into new building designs. A rainwater harvesting design starts with siphonic roof drainage, through which rainwater is diverted from the roof to an on-site storage tank. This stored water is filtered and can then be diverted both indoors and outdoors to be recycled for toilet flushing, facility cleaning, irrigation, etc. Not only does the facility save water consumption costs, but it also reduces storm water runoff on the site, which can provide leverage for a company looking to attain building permits.

