Maintaining Your Residential Water Harvesting System

Collecting and using rainwater is easy and fun!

Get years of service from your rainwater system by following some simple maintenance practices. The following procedures and schedules will help guide you through caring for your system.*

*These recommendations do not include components for potable systems.

System Description

Date of installation: ______________
Use of rainwater: ____________________
Installer: 
Business name: ___________________
Installer name: _____________________
Phone: ___________________________
Cell: _____________________________
Email: ___________________________
Licensed contractor #: ______________
Website: _________________________
As-built drawings attached? __________

Equipment (add additional sheets as needed):

- Tank:
  1. Brand: _______________________
  2. Material: _____________________
  3. Gallons: _____________________

- Pump:
  Manufacturer: ___________________
  Model: _________________________
  Maximum output: _______gallons/minute

First Flush:
  Manufacturer: ___________________
  Model: _________________________

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Water Wise
waterwise.arizona.edu

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Water Wise Program

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For more information on water harvestings, visit:

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Water Wise Partners are:

Additional support provided by Pueblo del Sol Water Company.
Below is a detailed list of system components, maintenance tasks and recommended service frequency:

**Roof (yearly):**
- Remove overhanging vegetation
- Remove any accumulated debris

**Gutters (at least yearly):**
- Remove debris
- Inspect connections
- Assure good drainage (no puddles or wet debris) to eliminate mosquito breeding areas

**Debris screens on gutter and/or downspouts (yearly or after major storms):**
- Clean
- Secure connections, close gaps

**Downspouts (yearly):**
- Remove debris, clear flow
- Inspect connections
- Inspect for deterioration (unpainted PVC quickly deteriorates)

**First flush:**
- Inspect (weekly)
- Clean (if self-draining – monthly, if not – after each rain)

**Collection Container (monthly):**
- Clear connections of debris
- Screen all openings
- Replenish mosquito control if open water (use a product containing BTi)
- Keep light out if possible
- Check for deterioration, protect from sun
- Check fittings for leaks
- Clean screens: strainer basket, air vent
- Clean tank (if or as needed)
- Secure tie-downs (if applicable)

**Piping and Connections (monthly):**
- Assure tank overflows away from base
- Protect from freezing (seasonally)
- Protect from sun damage
- Secure connections
- Check for cracking, leaking

**Pumps (periodically, seasonally):**
- Check if cool during operation (external pumps)
- Make sure not cycling, pressure steady
- Protect from freezing, or drain
- Clean screen on internal pumps
- Check if secured to base (external pump)
- Clean in-line filters

**Pressure Tanks (periodically, seasonally):**
- Check for leaks, connections
- Check pressure
- Protect from freezing, or drain

**Container Base (yearly):**
- Check concrete for cracks
- Check that gravel is contained
- Check that water drains away from tank

**As needed, if applicable:**
- Clean container
- Clean pump screens/filters
- Inspect pump

**Monthly:**
- Inspect collection container, replenish mosquito control if necessary
- Inspect piping and connections
- Clean first flush of debris

**Seasonally:**
- *Freezing weather*
  - Protect connections
  - Drain or protect pumps
  - Drain or protect pressure tanks

**June (before monsoon season):**
- Inspect & clean gutters, downspouts and screens; assure good drainage

**Yearly:**
- Clear vegetation overhanging roof
- Inspect container and base
- Check tank tie-downs (if applicable)

**Quick Check:**
- After each rain
  - Drain first flush (if not self draining)