

SAVE YOUR RAIN FOR A SUMMER DAY

Winter rainfall is wonderful for the garden, and wouldn't it be nice to capture some of it for use in the summer? Installing a rainwater catchment system can save both water and money. One family in Aptos installed enough rain catchment tanks to store 6,500 gallons of water. "We worked with local vendors and water district employees who helped make the project fairly straightforward," said the owners. "And, on top of the free water we will use for irrigation, we received rebates from Soquel Creek Water District that are worth nearly a year's supply of potable water!"



There are five components to a rainwater harvesting/catchment system, the;

- 1) Collection Surface, 2) Conveyance, 3) Container, 4) Outflow and 5) Overflow.

1. **Collection Surface:** First you'll need to identify the surface that you'll "catch" the water on usually a rooftop. Then identify the way to get the water to the container and then from the container, out to the landscape. See if you can gravity feed the water in the system the entire way, otherwise you'll need a pump.
2. **Conveyance:** Now you'll need to find a way to get the water from the collection surface to the container- usually a gutter and downspout, but you can use different types of plastic pipes as well. To keep your tanks clean from summer dirt and debris, install a pre-filter or first-flush device before the water enters the containers.
3. **Container:** Containers come in a variety of shapes, sizes, colors and materials and there are many businesses in our county that sell them. Your containers should be secured to the ground on a flat area and must have a backflow prevention device if they are connected to your potable water supply. Containers must have mesh mosquito guards at both inflow and outflow points and if the container is 5,000 gallons or more, you'll need to pour a concrete pad and get a permit.
4. **Outflow:** The outflow to the landscape can be achieved by a watering can, bucket or hose. If the container is high enough, you can gravity feed with a hose (each foot you raise the tank will increase pressure about a half pound per square inch (psi). Make sure it's secure!
5. **Overflow:** Last but not least, you'll want to estimate the amount of water that will be shed from your collection surface. The formula is: Square feet of roof in square feet x 0.625 gallons of water = gallons of water per inch of rain. Since you'll store much less water than is "caught" you'll need a place for the overflow. This is the time to get creative and really use your rainwater to your advantage. For more information on handling rainwater run-off, see the Stormwater, Drainage and Erosion materials found here:

<http://www.rcdsantacruz.org/publications>

"It feels great to be irrigating our landscape and gardens with water harvested from the sky," one owner says. Most local water districts offer rebates on purchased catchment tanks. Find your district's offer on our rebate chart on page 16!

If you want an in-depth and fascinating read, try any of Brad Lancaster's books: *Harvesting Rainwater for Drylands and Beyond*.



LOVE'S gardens

Designing and installing greywater and rainwater systems since 2003.

Your local Santa Cruz County experts!

Co-Creating Water Neutral Gardens
831-471-9100 • <https://lovesgardens.com>

Whalers Car Wash



A "Clean Ocean Business"



Whalers Car Wash is an award-winning car wash that's been in business for over 50 years.

WE OFFER:

- eco-friendly services
- recycled/reclaimed water
- water-soluble fluids
- soft-cloth & handwash systems

OPEN DAILY 8am to 5pm
2001 Soquel Avenue,
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
(831)423-0676

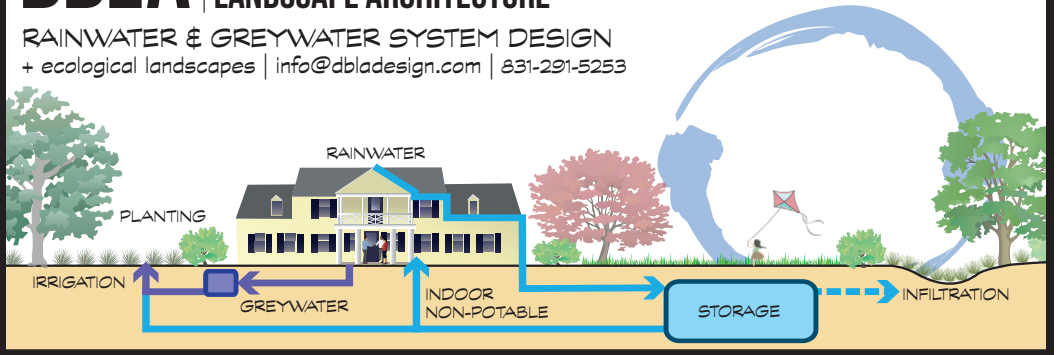
Voted **BEST CAR WASH IN SANTA CRUZ!**



DBLA

DAKOTAH BERTSCH LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

RAINWATER & GREYWATER SYSTEM DESIGN
+ ecological landscapes | info@dbladesign.com | 831-291-5253




WaterMark®

watermarkrainwaterharvesting.com

Fire Protection Tanks



Rainwater Harvesting



Water Solutions



Graywater Recycling





Be Prepared!
2018 set the record for the largest area of acreage burned in a single fire season. Let us help you protect your property and your family in the event of a wild fire.

Call the experts of Santa Cruz
(408)-690-7581



ARCSA MEMBER
See our rainwater harvesting system at the Central Home Supply in Scotts valley!

PIONEER WATER TANKS
Authorized Dealer