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January 2011 Newsletter

Rainwater Harvesting

Fun Facts & Trivia

- One inch of rainfall on a 2,000 sq ft. residential roof generates 1,250 gallons of water that can be reused.
- That same roof in a region receiving 30 inches of annual rainfall generates 41,000 gallons of reusable water.
- The average US household with a 10,000 square foot lot uses 5,000 gallons of water weekly for landscape irrigation.
- Running a sprinkler for two hours can use up to 500 gallons of water.
- Groundwater can take a human lifetime just to traverse a mile.
- Water regulates the earth temperature.
- Less than one percent of the water supply on earth can be used as drinking water.

What is rainwater harvesting?

Rainwater collection or harvesting is the accumulation and storing of rainwater from the roof.

How can rainwater be used?

It can be used to provide drinking water, water for livestock, and water for irrigation. In rural countries rainwater is the only supply of water for human consumption; as in drinking, cooking, bathing, laundry and for toilets.

Benefits of using rainwater

Due to water restrictions in place during the summer months in New England, collecting water reduces overall water usage. The benefits can be useful in your landscape and gardens. Rainwater collection helps save money on your water bill too.

Harvesting with Rain barrels

Rainwater coming off your roof and into a rain barrel can be a great place to start using our natural resources. Rain barrels can be a simple container or a more elaborate collection system.

Rainwater harvesting law

In Colorado you may not catch, collect or harvest rain water from your roof unless you first buy a permit. In Bermuda, the law requires all new construction to include rainwater harvesting adequate for the residents. In Utah, collecting rainwater from the roof is illegal unless the roof owner also owns water rights on the ground.