

## Rainwater Catchment Systems in Texas

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## Types of RWC (RWH) Systems

- Land-based Systems
  - Small ponds, impoundments
- Roof-based Systems
  - Rainbarrels, cisterns, tanks

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## Types of Rainwater Use

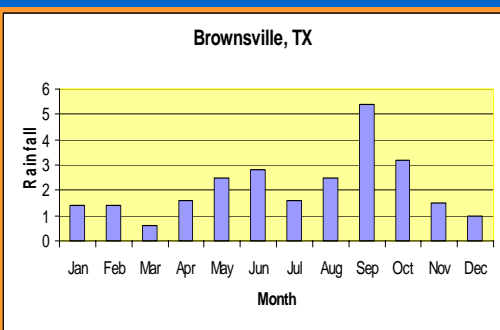
- **NON-POTABLE**
- Garden & Landscape / Irrigation
- Toilets
- **POTABLE (with treatment)**
- Shower / washing
- Water for drinking / cooking
- *Bottled Rainwater*

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## Advantages / Benefits of Rainwater

- Excellent water quality, can be better than municipal water for plants....
- Other environmental reasons – NPS reduction
- Economic reasons – its free water !
- Water shortages (short-term and long-term)
- Great alternative source in areas with poor groundwater quality
- Water supply source for remote locations

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## Long-term Water Shortages

36 States expect water shortages in the next 10 years even under "normal" water conditions (GAO, 2003)

Texas - Population projected to double in the next 50 years, and 900 cities/water users in Texas have to either reduce demand through Conservation, or develop additional sources of water (TWDB, 2002)

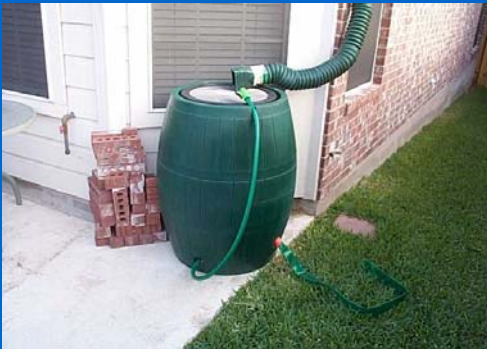
## Rainwater Harvesting

RWH is a technique that does both.....  
It conserves municipal water **and**  
provides an 'additional' source of water  
(for future water supply)

## The new (Rainwater) Math !!

- Did you know that a  
75 gallon capacity = 300 gallons or more ?
- How's that possible???

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## How much water can you collect?

- Thumb Rule....  
  
600 gallons / 1,000 sq.ft. of roof area  
per inch of rainfall.

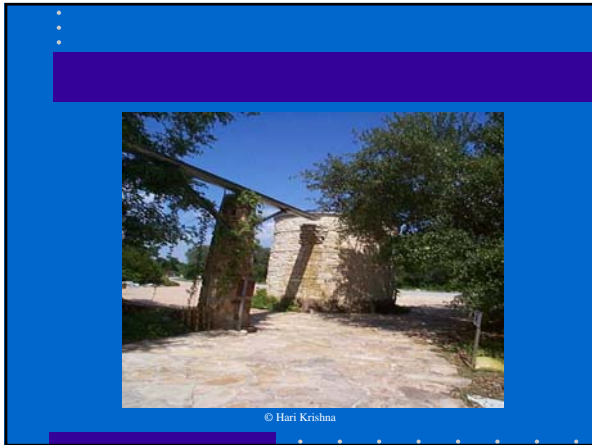
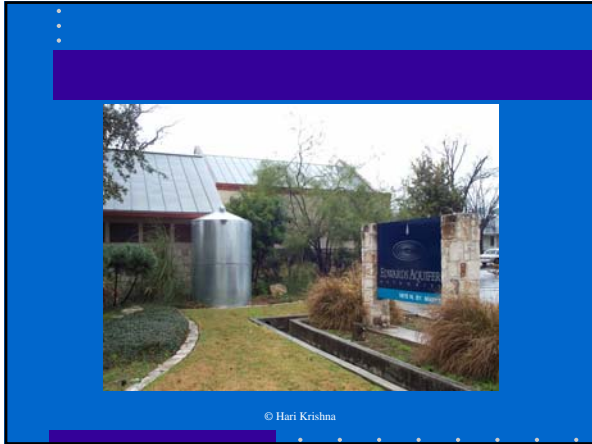
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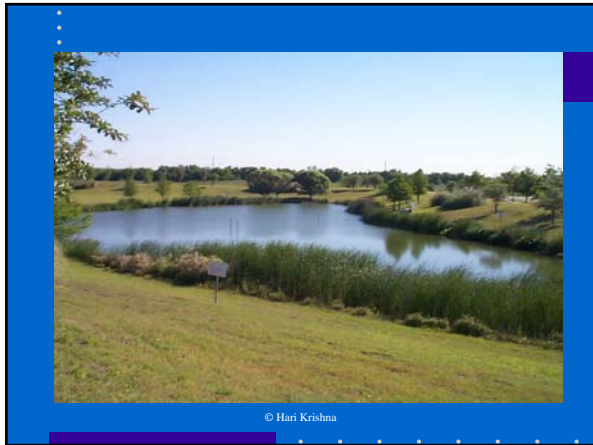
- A home with a 2000 sq.ft. roof area in  
the Lower Rio Grande Valley can yield  
up to 30,000 gallons / year.

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## RWH for Landscape Irrigation

If RWH is used for just 15% of  
residential landscape irrigation in the  
United States, it would save a billion  
gallons of water each day.  
(1,120,000 ac. ft./year) !







## State of Texas Incentives

- Sales Tax Exemption for RWH equipment
- Senate Bill 2 - 2001
- [www.window.state.tx.us](http://www.window.state.tx.us)
- Sales Tax Update – Nov. 2002

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## County Incentives for RWH

- Hays county, Texas (County-level Rebates)
  - \$100 rebate in application for RWH system
  - Smaller size lots permitted if RWH included
  - (larger lots required with well water systems)
  - No property tax on the RWH system
  - Link Deposit program to finance RWHS

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## City Incentives for RWH - Austin

- Cash rebate of up to **\$500.00** per customer, for installing a RWH system (based on \$0.15/gallon of storage)
- Discounted rain barrels @ \$45 each
- Cash Rebates of \$30.00 - other rain barrels
- 50% cost share up to \$100 for small pumps

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## RWCS - Associations

- International Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (IRCSA)  
[www.ircsa.org](http://www.ircsa.org)
- American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA)  
[www.arcsa-usa.org](http://www.arcsa-usa.org)

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## ARCSA

- Founded in Austin, Texas, 1994  
Membership now from over 30 States, and some foreign countries

To join ARCSA:  
[www.arcsa-usa.org](http://www.arcsa-usa.org)

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### North American RWH Conference

- July 14-16, 2005
- Seattle, WA
  
- [www.arcsa-usa.org](http://www.arcsa-usa.org)
- Announcement - flyer

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### RWH Information Resources

- Texas Water Development Board  
[www.twdb.state.tx.us](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us)  
RWH Guide (download from website)  
Texas Manual on RWH (June 2005)
  
- ARCSA - American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association
  
- [Hari.Krishna@twdb.state.tx.us](mailto:Hari.Krishna@twdb.state.tx.us)

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In conclusion...



Use the best quality water you  
can find for your plants and  
landscape...

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**That's RAINWATER !!**



Thank You !

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