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Maintaining Your Residential Water Harvesting System



Water Wise
waterwise.arizona.edu

Water Wise Partners are



Additional support provided by Pueblo del Sol Water Company

Congratulations on your 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 _____ #2 _____

(Brand): _____

Material: _____

Gallons: _____

Pump: _____

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

Maximum output: _____gallons/minute

First Flush: _____

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

Quick Check

After each rain

- Drain first flush (if not self draining)

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)

As needed, if applicable

- Clean container
- Clean pump screens/filters
- Inspect pump

Maintenance Schedule and Frequency

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)

Container Base (yearly)

- Check concrete for cracks
- Check that gravel is contained
- Check that water drains away from tank

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

Schematic of Water Collection System Maintenance Items

