

Rainwater Supplies
University of Arizona *Water Wise* Program
www.ag.arizona.edu/cochise/waterwise



Below are a few examples of where to buy rainwater harvesting equipment. Scout around for other suppliers as there are many. A helpful website for supplies and other information is Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands www.harvestingrainwater.com

Containers:

Plastic Tanks

Potable water tanks need to meet FDA specifications. Non-potable do not. NSF International has certified some products for potable water use, but not all potable products are NSF approved as the process is costly and not all manufactures apply for certification. Website: www.nsf.org. Go to “Search Listings”.

There are above ground and below ground tanks. Below ground tanks are constructed to bear weight whereas above ground ones are not. For above ground tanks, try to get opaque ones (black, dark green) which exclude light making algae growth minimal. Sometimes white will be the only choice depending on the dimensions needed. Look for above ground plastic tanks with UV inhibitors.

Plastic tanks can be painted for aesthetics and to help protect them. A rubberized roof paint works well and can be tinted in light colors (tan, green, etc.). Primers are not needed. The paint goes on easily and for opaque tanks only two light coats are needed. White tanks with several coats of paint will still let in some light.

Depending on use, the number, location and size of tank, outlets needed will vary. Remember that when water enters the tank, the air it displaces needs to exit so don't make your system air tight. The tank needs an entrance for water, an exit (the location of the exit outlet will depend on a gravity fed system or pumped) and an overflow outlet (which can also function as the air outlet). Plan to direct the overflow water away from the tank and to a useful place. Norwesco brand above ground potable water tanks can be used as a standard as they have a bottom hole, upper side hole and a lid with a vented cap. Some tanks are only storage tanks and do not have all the “innies and outies”, but holes can be drilled out of the plastic. If there is a tank distributor nearby, it is worth a visit to get familiar with tank products.

Examples on the web for large plastic tanks (search around as there are a lot of choices):

Norwesco www.norwesco.com

Plastic Mart www.plastic-mart.com

I Need a Water Tank www.ineedawatertank.com

Protanks www.protankms.com

Water Tanks www.watertanks.com

Metal Tanks

Metal tanks can hold thousands of gallons. Be aware that old one piece tanks could have lead in the welds and unless it is certain that lead wasn't used, the tanks shouldn't be used for potable water unless lined. Metal tanks are also available in sections that are bolted together on-site. Sectioned metal tanks need liners. Potable plastic liners are available.

Pioneer Tanks www.pioneertanks.com.au

BH Tank www.bhtank.com

Wood Tanks

Wood water tanks www.computercorner.com/py/redwood/preview should always be wet or they will leak. Liners should be used.

Tank Liners

Pioneer Tanks www.pioneertanks.com.au

Suppliers in Southern AZ

Tanks:

Look in the yellow pages under “Tanks”. Large cities have tank suppliers.

Visit local feedstores

Sierra Vista, AZ area:

Ramsey Canyon Feed & Pet, 4107 E. Glenn Rd, Sierra Vista: (520) 378-9474

San Pedro Feed & Hardware, 9971 E. Hwy 92, Hereford: (520) 366-5506

Oasis Water Harvesting: www.oasisrainwaterharvesting.com (520) 234-7681 (Norwesco dealer)

Metal Culverts

(Note: for constructing culverts, other supplies are needed. Border Products in Tucson has the Sika-Flex, Thoroseal, etc.). For suggestions on making a CMP (Corrugated Metal Pipe) cistern, contact Cado Daily at cdaily@ag.arizona.edu.

Culvert suppliers:

Building supplies for contractors

Sierra Vista Builders Supply, 115 N. 6th St, Sierra Vista: (520) 459-1718

Smaller containers (55 gallon barrels and smaller. Large decorative containers):

Visit car washes, bakeries and feed stores. Make sure the containers did not contain toxic materials that can't be washed out. If the container contained cooking oil, make sure it isn't old and sticky inside as it is almost impossible to clean. Call locations for availability and hours.

Web:

Desert Plastics: www.desertplastics-abq.com (plastic decorative containers)

Tucson:

Small Planet Bakery: 411 N 7th Ave, (520) 884-9313 (plastic 55 gallon barrels -don't get ones that contained old cooking oil)

Sierra Vista:

Sierra Vista Hay & Feed: 4001 E. Camino Principal, (520) 458-9500 (plastic 55 gallon and smaller barrels)

Oasis Water Harvesting: www.oasisrainwaterharvesting.com (520) 234-7681 (plastic decorative containers)

Bisbee:

Andrew Nelson: (520) 432-3143 (plastic 55 gallon painted barrels with spigot)

McNeal (Sulphur Springs Valley)

Fiesta Chile Cannery: (520) 642-3366 (55 gallon enamel coated metal barrels and plastic barrels)

First Flush Systems

These are used for potable water systems or if roof water is very dirty (lots of bird droppings usually). Rule of thumb is to divert 5-10 gallons for a 1,000 sqft roof, and for larger roofs - 10 gallons/1,000sqft.

There are simple inexpensive systems made with a drop pipe and/or debris diverters, and expensive systems.

Rain Harvesting www.rainharvesting.com (soon to have a U.S. distributor)

Safe Rain www.saferain.com.au/harvesting.htm

Bushman Tanks www.bushmantanks.com (soon to have a U.S. distributor). Go to “Why Water Tanks”, then “Rainwater Quality”, then “First Flush Diverter”

UA Cooperative Extension Water Wise www.ag.arizona.edu/cochise/waterwise. Go to “Rainwater Harvesting”

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