

Resources

Local Stormwater Management

**Napa Countywide Stormwater
Pollution Prevention Program**
(707) 253-4823

www.countyofnapa.org/stormwater

Rainwater Harvesting Websites

California BMP Handbooks:
www.cabmphandbooks.com

General rainwater harvesting
information:
www.harvesth2o.com

Plants for rain gardens:
www.native-raingarden.com



Stormwater Pollution Reporting Hotlines

*Protect our waterways and the wildlife within them by
reporting pollution concerns*

American Canyon (707) 647-4550
City of Napa. (707) 257-9600
Yountville. (707) 944-8851
St. Helena, *work hours*. (707) 968-2658
after hours. (707) 967-2850
Calistoga. (707) 942-2828
Napa County (*unincorporated*). . . (707) 299-1799

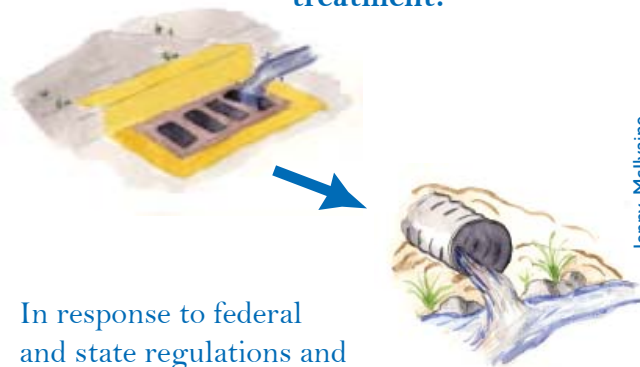
**If a stormwater incident poses an immediate
threat to public health or safety, call 911 or
(707) 253-0911 with cell phones. For releases
of hazardous materials or materials that may
threaten fish or wildlife (motor oil, paint,
sewage, etc.), call the Office of Emergency
Services at 1-800-852-7550.**

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Be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution!

Only Rain Down the Drain!

In Napa County, all storm drains (the drains
in streets) flow directly to creeks or
other waterways with no
treatment!



Jenny McIlvaine

In response to federal
and state regulations and
requirements, the municipalities in
Napa County have joined to form the:

Napa Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (NCSPPP)

In addition to reviewing their own practices
that may harm water quality, the NCSPPP
agencies have launched a public education
campaign and inspection program to raise public
awareness about stormwater pollution and to
reduce the amount of pollutants discharged
from residential and commercial sources.

To learn more about how you can reduce
stormwater pollution, visit
www.countyofnapa.org/stormwater

Pollution Prevention with Rainwater Harvesting



**Napa Countywide Stormwater
Pollution Prevention Program**

Rainwater Harvesting: What, Why, and How?

Rainwater harvesting is the collection and storage of rainwater. Collecting rainwater from roofs can have many benefits to us and our environment. Rain can be collected in a container for future use, or it can be directed into a rain garden that is designed to accommodate pulses of water.

What is Rainwater Harvesting?

Where does rainwater go after hitting your roof?

Typically, rainwater is diverted into storm drains or into the landscape at a safe distance away from buildings.

However, this large amount of water can be collected and either stored for future use or guided to recharge the groundwater table.

Rainwater harvesting is the collection of rain water. Rain from roofs can be collected in **storage vessels** and **rain gardens**.

STORAGE VESSELS

From a converted wine barrel to cistern in size, vessels are fed by downspouts and located above or below ground.



RAIN GARDENS

These planted depressions in the landscape are designed to thrive on pulses of water from downspouts, driveways, or other impervious surfaces.



Why Should Rainwater Harvesting Interest Me?

Rainwater harvesting can provide benefits to you and our environment.

PREVENT POLLUTION

Pollutants from roofs and pavement settle in storage vessels or rain gardens instead of our waterways.



CONSERVE WATER

California's potable water supply cannot meet current demand much longer. Reduce your demand on our water supply by using rain to water your landscape.



SMALLER WATER BILL

Instead of watering your landscape with costly, chlorinated, drinkable water from the pipe, use the rain that falls on your property free of charge!

REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Transporting water from source to tap takes a lot of energy. Using more rainwater and less tap water means using less energy.



REDUCE FLOODING

Reducing the amount of water that enters storm drains lowers the risk of flooding in local streams and rivers to which stormwater is delivered.

REDUCE STANDING WATER

Water that pools in undesired spots, like near your house or in your garden can be diverted to barrels or visually pleasing rain gardens.

RECHARGE GROUNDWATER

Groundwater is tapped by hundreds of wells in the county, but underground reservoirs refill slowly. Ensuring that rainwater enters your landscape and NOT the stormdrain means more water will become groundwater.

How do I get started?

Ask yourself the following questions:

1. How much rain will you be able to catch off your roof and how much rain can you use?

In general, maximum capture in gallons is equal to annual rainfall times roof square footage times 0.6.

2. If you are installing storage vessels, what size and how many will you need? How will you remove the water from the containers?



Many vessels are designed with spigots at the bottom to which hoses or drip systems can be attached.

3. If constructing a rain garden, where will it go? What plants should you use?

Consult landscape professionals or local UC Master Gardeners for assistance. Seek out some of the widely available publications on rain gardens.

4. Will you need to purify collected rain water before reusing it?

In general, rainwater will not need to be purified before it is used to irrigate your landscape. Pollutants like dust and roof particles will settle out in the vessel or garden.

5. How will you keep leaves and mosquitos out of your stored water?

Typically, vessels have mosquito netting screens on them and gardens are drained before mosquitoes have the chance to mature from egg to adults (about three days).

6. Are there other ways that you could be conserving water in your home or landscape?

Consult your water supplier for tips and free water-saving devices. We should all reduce demand on our limited drinking water supply.