

Rainwater harvesting for the home

“Rainwater harvesting systems (RWHS) can look and sound complicated but it is actually an easy and ancient method to simply catch free water from the sky. The water harvested is stored in tanks to use for non-potable household uses including watering the garden, flushing toilets, washing clothes and cars and topping up pools and ponds,” according to JoJo Tanks.



They also offer the following tips:

- If you own your property and intend to stay put, a RWHS is a good investment. Water bills are set to rise with more regular and higher price hikes and your initial RWHS investment will repay itself handsomely over the medium term.
- If you have a large garden, there are more than 3 people living in your house and everyone is reliant on municipal water (i.e. metered supply), you will benefit from a RWHS
- If you have a modern kitchen and more than one bathroom, chances are that you would be saving money if you start using rainwater for specific household purposes
- As RWH reduces surface water, it will reduce the likelihood of flooding on your property by up to 60%.
- Rainwater is better for your garden as it has a balanced pH and is free of chemicals such as chlorine.

Information Courtesy: JoJo tanks

Clayton says that clients warm to the idea of rainwater harvesting when introduced to the significant benefits and savings of the practise. Architects and contractors who have not yet installed rainwater harvesting systems tend to discourage their clients from installing tanks, as they can't see the benefits. But rainwater harvesting will become more commonplace in the gardens of homes and business, says Clayton. “As water becomes more costly, the demand for rainwater harvesting systems will increase. As folk become better informed, there will be an increase in rainwater harvesting.” Paarman Landscapes has installed a number of rainwater harvesting tanks, utilising JoJo Tanks.

Comments Clayton: “I started using JoJo Tanks as they are cost effective, easy to install and are available in various colours. I have also utilised them at my house, with good results. I found that by using a booster pump at my house, I could pump rainwater into our irrigation system and top up my pool. We also had seamless gutters installed to catch the maximum water to fill the tanks. A rain sensor fitted to our irrigation system prevents water wastage.”

Patio sporting underfloor tank

A further good example of the use of rainwater harvesting, says Laue, is to be found at House Truter. As the patio needed renovating at House Truter, Laue convinced the client to build a rainwater tank under the new patio. “We have gutters feeding the tank as well as a leaf catcher to prevent organics entering the tank and an overflow for when the tank is full – the water then flows into the storm water system.”

House Truter's rainwater harvesting system has a booster pump in place to water the garden with relays defaulting to the rainwater tank, elaborates Laue. When the tank is empty

it defaults to the council water system, directly into the system mainline. No cross connection happens.

Laue says: “At House Truter a rain sensor for good water management is used and the irrigation fills the pool up when needed.”

Paarman Landscapes' electrician Electrofit installed the float switches and relays, to start and stop the booster pump. Fernkloof Construction – who are also keen on rainwater harvesting - built the tank under the patio, while renovation on the house took place.

As members of the Landscape Irrigation Association (LIA), Paarman Landscapes' irrigation is installed according to LIA's minimum standards. The irrigation design on House Truter was done by Turf AG designers, and the installation carried out as per their specification using LIA's standards.



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