HOW MUCH IN-HOUSE WATER DO YOU USE?

Check your water bill for usage. Many homes use 255 or more gallons per day.

**How water is used:**
- **Toilet**—1.6—7 gallons per flush
- **Long shower**—75 gallons
- **Laundry**—35 gallons

**Drippy sink or toilet:**
- 30 drops/min = 54 gal/month = 648 gal/year
- 120 drops/min = 237 gal/month = 2844 gal/year

**Grass types and their water demand:**
- St Augustine—50” per year
- Zoysia—45” per year
- Bermuda—40” per year
- Buffalo—25” per year

**Landscape**—uses 35%-60%, depending on weather, lawn type, size, & watering methods

### 7 WaterWise Principles

1. **Planning & Design:**
   Consider water requirements
2. **Soil Improvements:**
   Promote healthy plant growth
   Prevent erosion: add compost & use mulch
3. **Appropriate Plant Selection:**
   Incorporate adaptive plants
   Use less water
   Have fewer problems
   Will thrive in the Dallas area
4. **Appropriate Turf Areas**
5. **Practice Efficient Irrigation:**
   Do not water until necessary
   Do not water in the heat of the day
   Water deeply - not frequently
6. **Use Mulch to:**
   Cover and shade soil
   Minimize evaporation
   Reduce weed growth
   Reduce soil erosion
7. **Reduce Maintenance:**
   Compost - don’t bag grass clippings
   Use pesticides properly
   Mow at proper height

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**Rainwater Harvesting**

**Horticulture • Education • Community**

To ask a gardening question, request a speaker, or find out how to become a Certified Master Gardener

**CALL THE MG HELP DESK**

214.904.3053

Monday-Friday: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Email: dallasmg@ag.tamu.edu

Dallas County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers supporting Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Dallas County Horticulture programming.

www.dallascountymastergardeners.org

Document originally created by Carol Marsh, Certified Dallas County Master Gardener
HOW MUCH RAINWATER CAN YOU COLLECT?

Estimate amount of rainwater you can harvest from a catchment surface (defined as any surface used to collect rainwater such as a roof) with the following calculation:

\[
\text{Catchment area (sq ft) \times rainfall (in) \times 0.6} = \text{Harvested rainwater (gal)}
\]

AVERAGE RAINFALL
DALLAS COUNTY

Average annual rainfall Dallas County: 34.73”
Total rainfall for 2005: a low of 18.98”
January to September rainfall 2007: 42.95”

Average Monthly Rainfall (in inches):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Rainfall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>2.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>3.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>3.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>5.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>3.23</td>
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<td>August</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>2.23</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>2.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MATERIALS
Required for Rainwater Harvesting
► A water source—rainfall
► Collection surface—roof
► Diversion—gutters
► Storage—tank or barrel
► Additional storage for overflow

PLASTIC TRASH CAN RAIN BARREL

FIBERGLASS TANK STORING RAINWATER

Rainwater Facts

- Population in Texas will more than double from 2000 to 2060
- Demand for water in Texas expected to increase by 27% from 2000 to 2060
- No new reservoirs planned for the Dallas area until 2040
- Water quality in area lakes & rivers: runoff carries pesticides & fertilizers
- Recent drought is causing municipal water restrictions

REFERENCES:
Rainwater Harvesting:
- http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu
- http://twdb.state.tx.us.iwt/rainwater.asp

Rain Gardens:
- http://agrilifebookstore.org

ADDED BONUS

► Senate Bill 312: Removed sales tax on Rainwater Harvesting supplies. 2001
► Senate Bill 2: Passed by 77th Legislature, 2001, allows local entities to exempt all or part of assessed value of the property on which water conservation modifications, such as Rainwater Harvesting, are made.
► House Bill 645: Passed by 78th Legislature, 2003, prevents homeowners’ association from implementing new covenants banning outdoor water conservation measurers, such as Rainwater Harvesting.