

# Factsheet

November 2015

## Water Harvesting Catchment

(Practice Code 636)

### Cisterns and Rain Harvesters

All need:

1. Something to catch the rain
2. Something to store the water
3. Something to let the water out when needed



A **water harvesting catchment** is a facility to collect and store runoff from precipitation. Rainwater is very clean. Diverting the first few millimeters of rainfall (the “first flush”) from the catchment will avoid most of the contaminants.

### Practice Information

The purpose of a water harvesting catchment is to provide water for livestock, fish, wildlife and/or other uses by sealing contributing areas (such as rooftops) or constructing elevated roof structures to increase, collect and store runoff water for future use.

This practice involves sealing a watershed or portion of a watershed to increase, collect and store runoff water. It may also involve installing curbs and/or diversions to direct runoff water to a storage facility. The contributing areas may be rock outcrops, paved areas, or other impervious areas that yield high volumes of runoff. The contributing area, or apron, may require sealing with material such as asphalt, wax, rubber, plastic, concrete, metal or another impervious material.

Construction of elevated roof structures should use appropriate materials to meet the life expectancy of the practice and may require additional design criteria to meet State or local building codes and permit requirements. Consideration of the effects the practice may have on the quantity and quality of surface water and groundwater resources should be made. Factors may include changes in evaporation, timing of releases from the catchment, and the impact of the type of catchment on surface water versus groundwater resources.

The contributing drainage area shall be large enough to yield the quantity and quality of runoff water required for the intended use. A water harvesting catchment will require maintenance over the expected life of the practice.

### Something to catch the rain

Can also use a first flush diverter to keep the dirt that is washed off the roof from getting into the water storage

*Filtration may be needed!*



### Common Associated Practices

Water Harvesting Catchment (636) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Diversion (362), Livestock Pipeline (516), Pumping Plant (533), Pond (378), Watering Facility (614), and Critical Area Treatment (342).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.

**How much water can you get?**

- When it is hot, one millimeter of rain falling on 1 square meter of roof will result in about 0.8 liters of water.
- When it is cooler, you may get 1 liter for 1 square meter of roof.



For More Information:

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