



Fiberglass tank storing rainwater for home-use near San Marcos.

Materials: Tanks are available in a range of materials and sizes. For small installations, tanks, including whiskey barrels, 55-gallon drums, and horse troughs can be used. For large installations, many options exist for manufactured and site-built systems. Materials available include fiberglass, polyethylene, metal, concrete and masonry.

The Texas Water Development Board has developed a guide for a rainwater system installation. This excellent resource explains rainwater harvesting and provides a list of installers and sources of materials. It can be found on the web at: **www.twdb.state.tx.us**

How much in-house water do you use? You may be able to look at your water bill to see how much you use. Many use about 100 gallons per person per day (gppd). In homes with older fixtures and conserving water - about 75 gppd. In homes with water-saving fixtures - 55 gppd.

How water is used:

Toilet - 26%	Rest of bathroom - 23%
Kitchen - 5%	Laundry - 9%
Cleaning - 2%	Lawn - 35%

(Outside water usage may be as much as 50% or more of the total water used, depending on weather, type of lawn, size of lawn, watering methods and gardens).

Grass type and their water demand:

St. Augustine - 50"/year
Zoysia - 45"/year
Bermuda - 40"/year
Buffalo - 25"/year

Seven Water-Wise Principles:

1. Planning & Design that considers watering needs.
2. Soil Improvement to prevent erosion by adding compost and mulching.
3. Appropriate Plant Selection - native and adapted plants that use less water.
4. Practical irrigated turf and landscaped areas in appropriate locations.
5. Practicing efficient watering by not watering til necessary and not in the heat of the day or on windy days.
6. Use mulches to cover and shade soil, minimize evaporation, reduce weed growth and soil erosion.
7. Reduce maintenance by the reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers.
- 8.



Installing a rainwater harvesting system with a metal tank at the Hays County Extension Office.



Wildlife water supply at SWT Freeman Ranch using polyethylene rainwater tank.

Contact the Menard County office of the Texas Cooperative Extension for more information.

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioner Courts of Texas Cooperating.

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