SCRD Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program

Best Practices

In the planning of your rainwater harvesting system, the SCRD asks you review the following Best Practices. Please note, these best practices are for non-potable rain water storage systems.

That the rainwater harvesting system:

- Is equipped with an accessible inspection hatch that allows for servicing and cleaning.
- Has an overflow pipe located near the top of the cistern that is of equal or greater diameter than the intake pipe. The end of the overflow must be directed away from the base of the tank and from house foundations, and to an area protected from erosion, or tied into the existing perimeter drain.
- Is placed on level ground.
- If above-ground, is opaque, painted, or located within a building to limit the entry of sunlight.
- Is protected from excessive debris accumulation by the presence of a debris trap and/or filter to clean the rain before it enters the tank.
- Has properly sealed openings, inlets and outlets to prevent mosquitoes, rodents, groundwater, and other sources of contamination from entering the tank.
- Is ventilated to accommodate pressure changes when water enters or exits the tank. Larger vents increase the oxygen supply to the stored water.
- Is not installed in the path of surface water runoff.
- Is not installed in a concave area where water could collect around the base and compromise its foundation.
- Is not (especially if constructed of a lightweight poly material) installed in an area prone to high winds, which could topple an empty tank.
- Has been freeze-protected at exit fittings and water entries.
- Is sitting on a tank pad or foundation that is capable of supporting the cistern when full (water weighs 1 kg per liter, or 10 pounds per imperial gallon). The pad should consist of a compacted soil layer, covered by a level layer of sand so that the tank load will be distributed evenly. The sand layer should be smooth, containing no sharp objects that could puncture the tank. While the underlying soil layer will shift, swell, and shrink, the sand will help to absorb this movement.
- Property owner plans for seasonal and long-term maintenance of the system including cleaning, servicing, and inspection.
- If water is used for irrigating food crops, the water should meet the BC Ministry of Farming, Natural Resources, and Industry's Good Agriculture Practices, Water Quality standards.

Visit scrd.ca/rainwater to access additional resources on rainwater harvesting systems operation and maintenance**.**

For questions regarding the SCRD Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program please call 604 885 6806 or email infrastructure@scrd.ca