



Maintenance Tips for your Rainwater Harvesting System (Non-Potable)

Seasonal maintenance of a rainwater harvesting system will help to ensure a properly-functioning system, extend the lifespan of system components and maintain water quality. Preventing the accumulation of debris and freezing are the primary areas of focus.

These tips are designed as a starting point. Seasonal maintenance will vary depending on your system design and intended water uses.

Shut Down: Fall - Winter	Start Up: Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Open diverter valve. <input type="checkbox"/> Clean gutters. <input type="checkbox"/> Drain pipes exposed to freezing temperatures. <input type="checkbox"/> Open tank exit valve and drain tank. <input type="checkbox"/> Check sediment depth in tank. Clean if more than 13mm deep. <input type="checkbox"/> Disconnect pump and store indoors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect roof catchment area. Prune overhanging branches. <input type="checkbox"/> Open diverter valve. Clean gutters. <input type="checkbox"/> Clean debris removal device. <input type="checkbox"/> Clean tank, if necessary. <input type="checkbox"/> Close diverter valve. <input type="checkbox"/> Check screen end on tank overflow. <input type="checkbox"/> Reconnect pump.
Maintain: Summer	Cistern Disinfection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Check and clean debris removal device. Flush diverter valve. <input type="checkbox"/> Clean gutters. <input type="checkbox"/> Check water quality in cistern. Accumulation of a sediment, or infrequent use, can lead to blooms of algae and bacteria. 	<p><i>To disinfect a full cistern:</i> Use calcium hypochlorite (65% chlorine). Found in tablet form to treat spas/pools. Add 7-10 grams per 1000 litres of water. Leave for 6 to 24 hours before use.</p> <p><i>To disinfect an empty cistern:</i> Use household bleach (5% chlorine). Add 1 tablespoon (15 millilitres) bleach to 4.5 litres of water. Clean surfaces. Leave for 2 hours. Rinse.</p>

Contact us

infrastructure@scrd.ca

604-885-6806

scrd.ca/rainwater