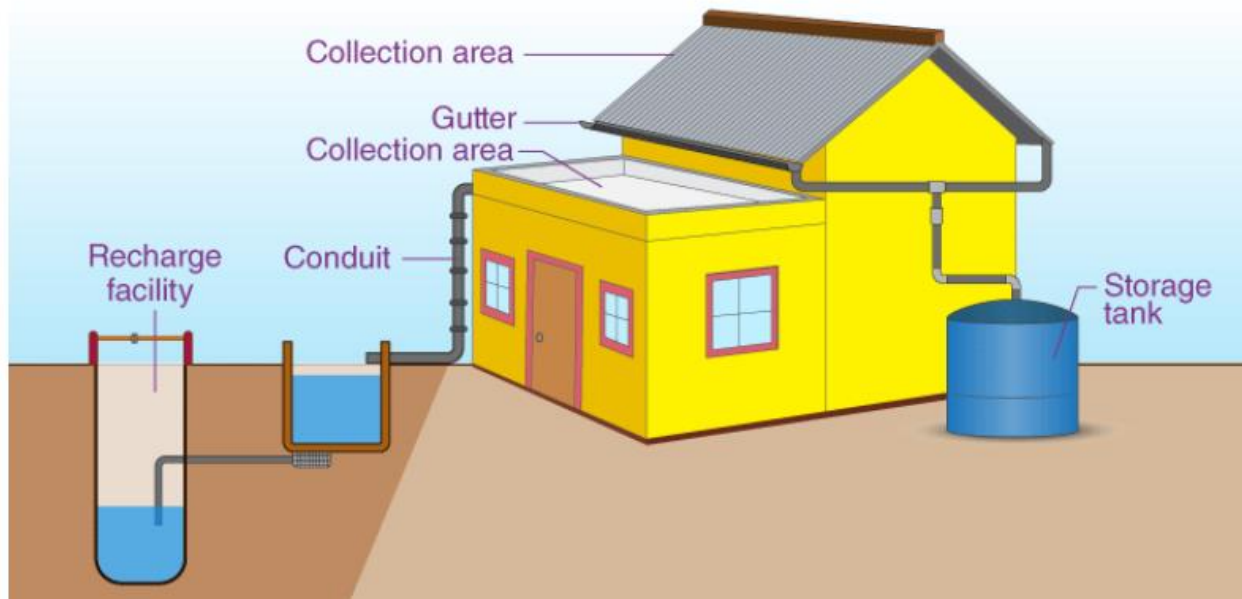


RAIN WATER HARVESTING

Rainwater harvesting is the simple process or technology used to conserve rainwater by collecting, storing, conveying and purifying of rainwater that runs off from rooftops, parks, roads, open grounds, etc. for later use.



Rainwater harvesting systems consists of the following components:

- Catchment- Used to collect and store the captured rainwater.
- Conveyance system – It is used to transport the harvested water from the catchment to the recharge zone.
- Flush- It is used to flush out the first spell of rain.
- Filter – Used for filtering the collected rainwater and removing pollutants.
- Tanks and the recharge structures: Used to store the filtered water which is ready to use.

The process of rainwater harvesting involves the collection and the storage of rainwater with the help of artificially designed systems that run off naturally or man-made catchment areas like- the rooftop, compounds, rock surface, hill slopes, artificially repaired impervious or semi-pervious land surface.

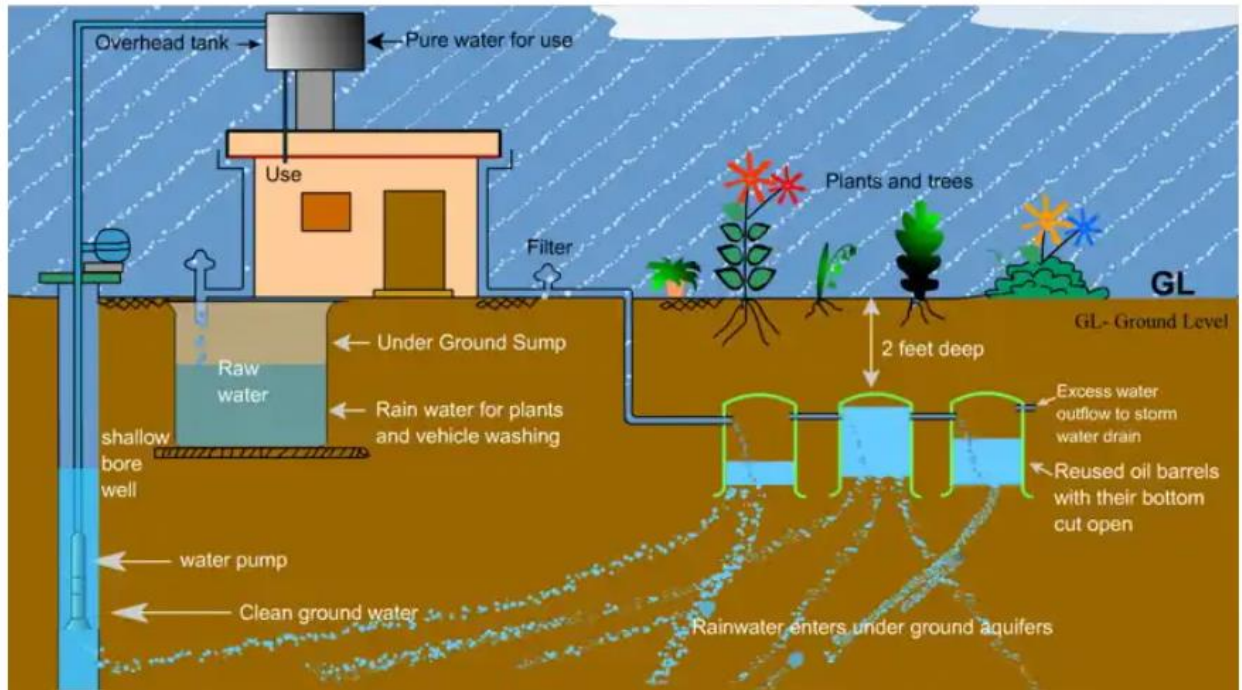
Several factors play a vital role in the amount of water harvested. Some of these factors are:

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- The quantum of runoff
- Features of the catchments
- Impact on the environment
- Availability of the technology
- The capacity of the storage tanks
- Types of the roof, its slope and its materials
- The frequency, quantity and the quality of the rainfall
- The speed and ease with which the rainwater penetrates through the subsoil to recharge the groundwater.

The process of rainwater harvesting;

The process includes the accumulation and deposition of rainwater for reuse on-site, rather than allowing it to run off. Rainwater can be accumulated from rivers or roofs, and in many places, the water collected is redirected to a deep pit (well, shaft, or borehole), a reservoir with percolation, or collected from dew or fog with nets or other tools. Its uses include water for gardens, livestock, irrigation, domestic use with proper treatment, indoor heating for houses, etc. The harvested water can also be used as drinking water, long-term storage, and for other purposes such as groundwater recharge. Rainwater harvesting is one of the simplest and oldest methods of self-supply of water.



Advantages of Rainwater Harvesting

The benefits of the rainwater harvesting system are listed below.

- Less cost.
- Helps in reducing the water bill.
- Decreases the demand for water.
- Reduces the need for imported water.
- Promotes both water and energy conservation.
- Improves the quality and quantity of groundwater.
- Does not require a filtration system for landscape irrigation.
- This technology is relatively simple, easy to install and operate.
- It reduces soil erosion, stormwater runoff, flooding, and pollution of surface water with fertilizers, pesticides, metals and other sediments.
- It is an excellent source of water for landscape irrigation with no chemicals, dissolved salts and free from all minerals.

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The different methods of rainwater harvesting include:

- **Rooftop rainwater harvesting** – The rooftop becomes the catchments, and the rainwater from the building and houses are collected. The components of the rooftop rainwater harvesting are:
 1. First, flush.
 2. Transportation.
 3. Catchment.
 4. Filter.
- **Surface runoff harvesting** – It is the system that collects rainwater, which flows away as surface runoff. The runoff rainwater is caught and used to recharge aquifers by adopting appropriate techniques.
