

Onsite Rainwater and Stormwater Capture and Use

Capture

Capturing and using water onsite within a building reduces demand for potable water and decreases stormwater discharges that cause combined sewer overflows, stormwater pollution, and aquatic and riparian habitat degradation. Rain barrels and cisterns capture and store rainwater for later use.



Rainwater Capture

Capture of water from rain, snowmelt or sleet that lands on rooftops and other surfaces before it reaches the ground.



Stormwater Capture

Capture of water from rain, snowmelt, or sleet that lands on and flows over the ground.

End Use

Indoor and outdoor uses for captured and treated onsite collected waters include toilet flushing, wash waters, landscape irrigation, and other uses.



Drinking Water



Irrigation



Toilet Flushing



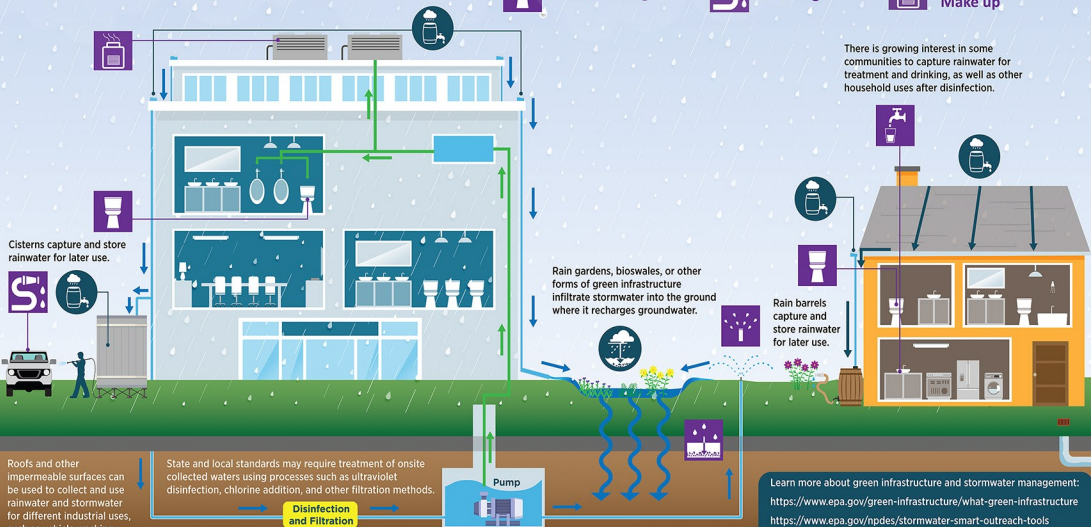
Washing



Infiltration for Groundwater Recharge



Cooling Tower Make up



Cisterns capture and store rainwater for later use.



Rain gardens, bioswales, or other forms of green infrastructure infiltrate stormwater into the ground where it recharges groundwater.

Rain barrels capture and store rainwater for later use.

Roofs and other impermeable surfaces can be used to collect and use rainwater and stormwater for different industrial uses, such as vehicle washing.

State and local standards may require treatment of onsite collected waters using processes such as ultraviolet disinfection, chlorine addition, and other filtration methods.

Disinfection and Filtration



<https://www.epa.gov/wateruse>

There is growing interest in some communities to capture rainwater for treatment and drinking, as well as other household uses after disinfection.

Learn more about green infrastructure and stormwater management:
<https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure>
<https://www.epa.gov/npdcs/stormwater-smart-outreach-tools>
<https://www.epa.gov/wateruse>