

Rainwater Harvesting

Investigation of rainwater harvesting during previous stages of the Reconciliation Strategy

- The findings of the investigation during Stage 2 of the Reconciliation Strategy concluded that rainwater harvesting should be encouraged for “**conjunctive use**”, i.e. using rainwater at all times and switching to municipal supply only when unavoidable
- When more water is used from the RWH tank, more storage is available to capture next rainfall event
- RDP housing with varying roof sizes can harvest between **36 and 57%** of the annual **Free Basic Water** (FBW) from its roof

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Benefits of rainwater harvesting

- Food gardening for personal provision
- Gardening and landscaping
- Toilet flushing and laundry
- Creating conservation awareness with users
- And many more...

Challenges with rainwater harvesting

- Rainfall is variable, both spatial and temporal – size of RWH model will vary across different regions
- Rainwater collected from roofs and gutters is not safe for potable uses
- Currently no SABS standards for manufacturing of plastic RWH tanks
- Need to develop suitable regulations for the use of rainwater harvesting in municipalities
- Rainwater harvesting volumes too small to show on water balances for regional schemes