

Rainwater Harvesting

It's summertime on the central coast and probably the best time to do work outdoors. Now is the time to get your home garden ready for the next rainy season.

Rainwater harvesting is great to consider when coming up with ideas for your garden. Rain barrels and rain gardens are two ways used to divert and detain stormwater runoff for use in your garden. By capturing rain water, potable water can be replaced by using harvested water, and runoff is reduced which helps protect our creeks, streams, and other water bodies.



Rainwater barrels are also referred to as rain tanks. By purchasing or making your own rain barrel, you can create a more water wise garden. They are used to capture and store rainwater runoff for later use. Rain is typically diverted from rooftops through the use of rain gutters into the tanks. This diverted rain can then be used to water your garden which saves potable water for other uses.

Rainwater tanks come in all shapes and sizes. Purchasing rain barrels from a home improvement store can be a little pricey, but they can also be very convenient and can also serve as decorative elements in your yard.

Another route you can go is to creating your own rain barrel with the use of a do-it-yourself rain barrel kit. These kits come with all of the parts needed to make a rain barrel out of whatever water tight (non-metal) container you choose. One readily available container here on the central coast is a wine barrel. These typically kits include a diverter, hole cover, 3-inch fill hose, a spigot, drain and cover, seals and screws, hole saw set, and, of course, instructions. Creating your own rain barrel comes with some perks:

1. This kit is less expensive than most rain barrels you will find at home improvement stores.
2. You can use any compatible container for storage.
 - It can be however large or small you need/want.
 - It can look however you want it to.

