



## Rainwater runoff is a big deal to salmon

Rainwater runoff carries pollutants to the stream – like yard fertilizers, metals from roof shingles, and pet waste. It can also flow very quickly and powerfully to the stream-- causing erosion and damaging salmon habitat.

Let Mid Sound Fisheries help you make your yard part of the solution.



Mid Sound Fisheries  
Enhancement Group

# INSTALL CISTERNS

Capturing rainwater run-off in leak-proof containers for re- use is an easy way to prevent polluted rainwater from flowing into our creeks. Rainwater can be captured from any surface that is higher than the tank, but most commonly it is collected off of a roof.

Captured rainwater can be used to water gardens during dry periods or be slowly released into the sewer system after the danger of sewage overflows has passed.

To determine if a cistern is a smart choice for your property we will:

- calculate how much rainwater run-off can be collected from the roof
- investigate potential locations to site your cistern and discuss how it will connect to the downspouts
- identify where overflow will be directed (at least 5' away from any buildings)
- consider how gravity will deliver water to nearby gardens
- discuss best methods to eliminate mosquitos

Once it is determined that a cistern is the right choice for your yard we will work with a contractor to:

- choose the appropriate size of the cistern and decide where it will be located
- add spigots to provided cistern
- create a firm and level base for your cistern
- secure the cistern so will not tip over
- connect the cistern to the downspouts

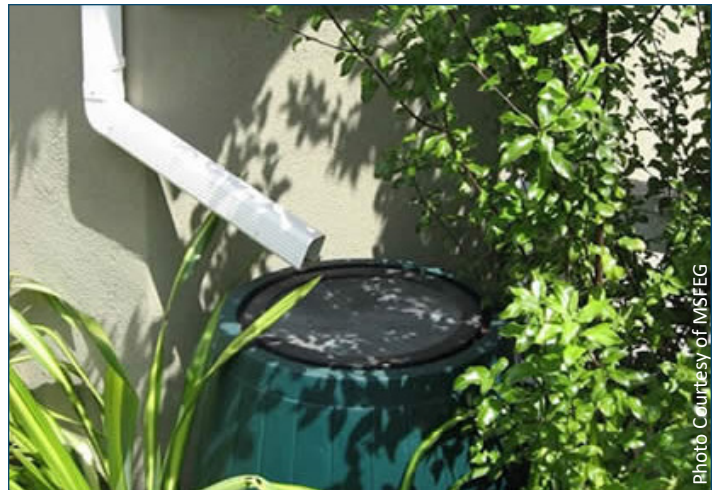


Photo Courtesy of MSFEG

*Some people hide their cisterns behind plants.*

- install first flush device and screen to prevent leaves and debris from clogging the cistern

To properly maintain your cistern:

- drain your cistern before storm events to ensure space is available for new rainwater
- routinely check screens and seals for signs of rips and cracks to reduce the risk of mosquitos getting inside the cistern
- clean, replace or reseal screens and seals as necessary (mosquito larvae like standing water)
- clean your cistern with a biodegradable, non-toxic cleaning solution every other year



*...rainwater solutions for your own backyard*

This project is funded through the EPA Puget Sound National Estuary Program.  
Contact Info: (206) 529-9467 / [www.midsoundfisheries.org](http://www.midsoundfisheries.org)