Utility Regulatory Authority Male', Republic of Maldives



موج مردموع بر موجوع درد، درور برده

Rainwater Harvesting Guidelines

URA 4002:2021

Design aspects:

Effectiveness of rain water harvesting depends on appropriate design of the system. Be it storage or a recharge structure, an improperly designed system will lead to operational problems, thereby raising the operation and maintenance costs. It may even lead to non-functioning of the system.

For designing rain water harvesting system, rainfall data is required. Preferably data for a period of ten years will be useful. The more reliable and specific the data is for the location, the design will be better. The rainfall data information can be available from the ministry of environment (weather), water resources or agriculture. Airport authorities in the area can also have such data.

The quantity of water available from a rainwater harvesting system depends on the size of the catchment surface, the percentage catchment surface area that is guttered, the efficiency of the gutters in transporting the water, and the size of the storage tank. If a catchment surface is too small, it may not provide sufficient water to fill the tank. Furthermore, the rainfall pattern and user-demand are also factors that must be taken into account. Thus effective rain water harvesting will depend on optimum match between,

- 1. Rainfall data
- 2. Roof area
- 3. Water storage capacity
- 4. Daily consumption rate

For designing a RWH system and deciding the size of storage tank it is essential that following factors are taken in to consideration.

- 1. Estimate the water demand by considering three factors
 - a. Number of persons in family
 - b. Uses of water (quantity)
 - c. Alternative sources of water for other uses
- 2. Consider the duration of dry spell (period without rain)
- 3. Decide the quantity of rain to be harvested considering following factors
 - a. Intensity and frequency of rain
 - b. Size of the roof surface
 - c. Availability of material and labour

Water demand:

Water demand varies depending on the area and water requirement of a family. In the areas where water is very scarce people may use less water. Common norm of water requirement per person is considered as 20 litres per day. For other domestic

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uses like toilets, floor washing, cleaning etc. locally available water (ground water) can be used even if it is of little inferior quality. The water demand is calculated by the following formula

 $Demand = water use \times Haousehold size$ \times 365 days

Suppose the water use is 20 litres per person per day and there are 5 members in s family then water demand for one year will be,

20 lpcd X 5 members X 365 days = 36,500 litres per year

Average water demand per month will be 3000

For a dry period of four months the required minimum storage capacity is,

3000 L X 4 months = 12,000 litres

Water supply is calculated by following formula, Supply = rainfall (mm/year) X area (sq. m) X Runoff coefficient

For example if the rainfall per year is 800 mm then a metal sheet roof of 80 m2 area will supply,

 $800 \times 80 \times 0.8 = 51,200 \text{ litres per year}$

Runoff and run off coefficient:

Runoff is the term applied to the water that flows away from a catchment after falling on its surface in the form of rain. Runoff can be generated from both paved and unpaved catchment areas of buildings. Runoff coefficient is the factor, which accounts for the fact that all the rainfall falling on a catchment cannot be collected. Some rainfall will be lost from the catchment by evaporation and retention on the surface itself. The rain water collection efficiency is measured in terms of runoff coefficient. If the collection efficiency of a roof material is 80 % then the runoff coefficient is 0.8. The type of roofing material determines the runoff coefficient for designs and the runoff coefficients for roof

Roof material	Runoff coefficient
Sheet metal	0.8 to 0.85
Cement tiles	0.62 to 069
Clay tiles (Machine made)	0.30 to 0.39
Clay tiles (Handmade)	0.24 to 0.31

ials used in Maldi ves are given below

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Roof Catchment:

In rain water system component design, the roof material of the building or house is the first choice ۵ رود در دو. ۵ رسرخ ررو.

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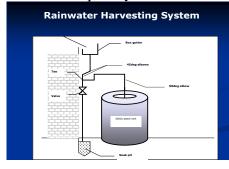
51200 = 0.8 × 80 × 800

مرسرم و مر مرسرو مروسمسرع

יוון יפס לו מי הפקבות השתית שרים ומכוח אים הב מכמפי מתרג הבקבות המתית שרים ומבחרב בפים הב 0 00 000 7 2 2 mm of the system component. Rainwater can be collected from most forms of roof. Tiled roofs, roofs sheeted with corrugated mild steel etc., are preferable, since they are the easiest to use and will give the cleanest water. Thatched or palm leafed surfaces are also feasible; although they are difficult to clean and can often taint the run-off. Asbestos sheeting or lead-painted surfaces should be avoided. If the house is small to catch up required rainfall additional roof/catchment as open sided shed can be built near house or attached with house.

The rain amount and household water demand varies from place to place and family to family respectively. Thus prior to designing rainwater harvesting system, knowing roof size is most important for each household for effective rainwater harvesting. The second consideration will be of roof material. Smoother the surface better the quality and quantity of water. However the quality and quantity of rain water from different roof is a function of roof material, climatic conditions, and the surrounding environment. The run-off from a roof is directly proportional to the quantity of rainfall and

the plan area of the roof. For every 1mm of rain a square meter of roof area will yield 1 litre of water, less evaporation,



spillage losses and wind effects.

Roof materials

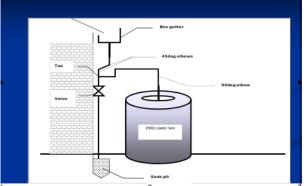
Roofs can be made from a variety of materials. Roofs made from grass and those likely to generate toxic materials are not recommended.

The typical roofing material include the following,

- Galvanized corrugated iron or plastic sheets, or tiles.
- Thatched roofs made from palm leaves (coconut and palms with tight thatching are best). Other thatching materials and mud discolor and contaminate (through rats) the rainwater.
- Unpainted and uncoated surface areas are best.
 If paint is used it must be non-toxic (no lead-based paints).
- Asbestos-cement roofing does not pose health risks - no evidence is found in any research. However, the airborne asbestos fibers from

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يرو ما محروسرج:



- cutting, etc. do pose a serious health risk if inhaled.
- Timber or bamboo is also used for gutters and drainpipes; for these materials regular replacement is better than preservation. Timber parts treated with pesticides to prevent rotting should never come into contact with drinking water.

Of them most significant is galvanized steel sheets which is easily available in Maldives. It retains less contamination than rougher surfaces and the runoff coefficient of metal is high. Metal sheets are zero porous so rain losses from the metal roofing will be less. In contrary to metal sheet, clay and concrete tiles are both porous. Concrete and clay tiles/concrete materials are also easily available in the local market but more than 10% rain may be lost due to its texture and evaporation. To reduce water losses, porous part can be reduced by coating fine cement or painting but still probability of bacteria growth in cement or clay tiles is higher than metal roof. If care is taken in maintaining roofs, serious water contamination from roofing is rare. Sever air pollution, lead fitting and toxic paint in roof may contaminate the rainwater as it runs from roof.

Suitable materials include:

The efficiency of rainwater collection depends on the materials used, the construction, maintenance and the total rainfall. A commonly used overall efficiency figure is 0.8. If cement tiles are used as roofing material, the year-round roof runoff coefficient is some 75%, while clay tiles collect usually less than 50% depending on the production method. Plastic and metal sheets do best with an efficiency of 80-90%.

Gutters and down pipes:

Gutters are channels fixed to the edges of roof all around to collect and transport rainwater from the roof to the storage tank. These must be properly sized, sloped and installed to maximize efficiency and minimize water loss. Gutters come in a wide variety of shapes and forms, ranging from the factory made PVC type to home-made gutters using bamboo or folded metal sheet. Gutters are usually fixed to the building just below the roof and catch the water as it falls from the roof. For effective operation of RWH, a well-designed and carefully constructed gutter system is crucial. 90% or more of the rainwater collected on the roof will be drained to the storage tank if the gutter and down pipe system is properly fitted and maintained. Common materials for gutters and down pipes are metal and plastic; which are available locally. But also مروع برردور و برورس برورس برورس و و بردورو و بردور

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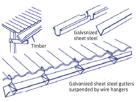
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cement-based products, bamboo and wood can be used. With high intensity rains, rainwater may shoot over the conventional gutter, resulting in a low production; splash guards can prevent this spillage. To keep leaves and other debris from entering the system, the gutters can have a continuous leaf screen made of quarter-inch wire mesh in a metal frame installed along the length of the gutter and a screen or wire basket at the head of the downspout. Or, just clean out gutters regularly.

Gutters can be prepared in semi-circular and rectangular shapes. Locally available material such as plain galvanized iron sheet can be easily folded to required shapes to prepare semi-circular and rectangular gutters. Semi-circular gutters of PVC material can be readily prepared by cutting the PVC pipes into two equal semi-circular channels.

Bamboo poles can also be used for making gutters if they are locally available in sufficient quantity. Use of such locally available materials reduce the overall cost of the system.



Manufacture of low- cost gutters

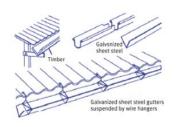
Factory-made gutters are usually expensive and beyond the reach of the poor people, if indeed available at all in the local marketplace. They are seldom used for very low-cost systems. The alternative is to make gutters from materials that can be found cheaply in the locality. There are a number of techniques that have been developed to help meet this demand; one such technique is described below

V-shaped gutters from galvanized steel sheet can be made simply by cutting and folding flat galvanized steel sheet. Such sheet is readily available in most market centers (otherwise corrugated iron sheet can be beaten flat) and can be worked with tools that are commonly found in a modestly equipped workshop. One simple technique is to clamp the cut sheet between two lengths of straight timber and then to fold the sheet along the edge of the wood. A strengthening edge can be added by folding the sheet through 900 and then completing the edge with a hammer on a hard flat surface. The better the grade of steel sheet that is used, the more durable will be the product.

השתצית לפתחקמים פתצה:

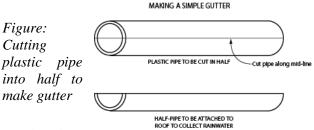
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ورمرفره مرمر شوعد:



Source: Water Aid,

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Plastic pipes may be cut into half to make gutters (Figure --- above). This requires only a saw and some clamps to fix the half-pipes to roofs. It may be made quickly and cheaply in areas where plastic pipes are available.

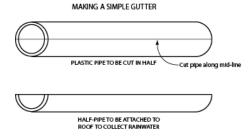
The rainwater is collected in guttering placed around the eaves of the building. Low cost guttering can be made up from 22 gauge galvanized mild steel sheeting, bent to form a 'V' and suspended by galvanized wire stitched through the thatch or sheeting.

The guttering drains to a down-pipe which discharges into a storage tank. The down-pipe should be made to swivel so that the collection of the first run-off can be run to waste (the first foul flush), thus preventing accumulated bird droppings, leaves, twigs and other vegetable matter, as well as dust and debris, from entering the storage tank.

Sometimes a collecting box with a mesh strainer (and sometimes with additional filter media) is used to prevent the ingress of potential pollutants. The guttering and down pipes should be sized so as to be capable of carrying peak volume of run-off; in the tropics this can occur during high intensity storms of short duration.

Size of gutter:

The roof size, roof material and its slope are important to design the gutter size. The maximum discharge in gutters at end point can be estimated from rainfall intensity, roof size, roof slope, roof material and gutter slope. The calculation makes more complication and may not easily understandable by layman. A guide to the gutter widths and down pipe diameter (adapted from Still and Thomas 2003, Davis and Lambert 2002) is depicted in table below. Lead cannot be used as gutter solder as slightly acidic quality of rain could dissolve lead which is hazardous to human health.



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Table: Required gutter width and down pipe size

Roof area m2	Gutter width, mm	Down pipe, mm
17	60	40
25	70	50
34	80	50
46	90	63
66	100	63
128	125	75
208	150	90

Down pipe: GUTTERS AND DOWN PIPES IN MALDIVES



Down pipe is the pipe, which carries the rainwater from the gutters to the storage tank. Down pipe is joined with the gutters at one end, and the other end is connected to the filter unit of the storage tank. PVC or GI pipes of diameter 50 mm to 75 mm (2 inch to 3 inch) are commonly used for down-pipe. Bamboo can also be used wherever available in suitable size.

In Maldives both PVC and galvanized gutters are used for rain channeling. PVC gutters do not rust and are of light weight, whereas, galvanized steel gutter may start rusting if proper care is not taken. Little acidic rain may corrode roof chemical materials that will flow into tank. A little Inclined in gutter is necessary to maintain free flow condition and cleanliness. Little inclined gutter retains less debris. Plastic gutters fitted are designed with Splash guard. Slope the gutters one-sixteenth inch per one foot of gutter to assure proper downward flow. Place the gutter hangers about every three feet. The outside face of the gutter should be lower than the inside face to assure drainage away from the building wall. Gutters should be placed onequarter inch below the slope line of the roof so that debris can clear without knocking down the gutter.

The following table gives an idea about the diameter of pipe required for draining out rainwater

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Roof area m2	Gutter width, mm	Down pipe, mm
17	0	40
25	70	50
34	80	50
46	90	63
66	100	63
128	1 5	5
208	150	90

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based on rainfall intensity and roof area:

Sizing of rainwater pipe for roof drainage

Diameter Of pipe (mm)	Average rate of rainfall in mm/h					
	50	75	100	125	150	200
50	13.4	8.9	6.6	5.3	4.4	3.3
65	24.1	16.0	12.0	9.6	8.0	6.0
75	40.8	27.0	20.4	16.3	13.6	10.2
100	85.4	57.0	42.7	34.2	28.5	21.3
125	-	-	80.5	64.3	53.5	40.0
150	-	_	-	-	83.6	62.7

Source: National Building Code of India

Leaf Screens/Roof Washers:

To keep leaves and other debris from entering the system, the gutters should have a continuous leaf screen, made of 1/4 inch wire mesh in a metal frame, installed along their entire length, and a screen or wire basket at the head of the down pipe. Gutter hangers are generally placed every 3 feet. The outside face of the gutter should be lower than the inside face to encourage drainage away from the building wall. Where possible, the gutters should be placed about 1/4 inch below the slope line so that debris can clear without knocking down the gutter. To prevent leaves and debris from entering the system, mesh filters should be provided at the mouth of the drain pipe. Further, a first-flush (foul flush) device section should be provided in the conduit before it connects to the storage container. If the stored water is to be used for drinking purposes, a sand filter should also be provided.

First Flush Device:

First flush or the rain diverter is provided to flush off the first rain before it enters the storage tank. The first flush water will be most contaminated by particulate matter, bird droppings, and other material laying on the roof (debris, dirt and dust). When the first rains arrive, it is essential to prevent this unwanted material to go into the storage tank. This can cause contamination of water collected in drinking and cooking purposes.

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Diameter Of pipe (mm)	Average rate of rainfall in mm/h					
	50	75	100	125	150	200
50	13.4	8.9	6.6	5.	4.4	3.3
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75	40.8	27.0	2 .4	16.3	13.6	10.2
100	85.4	57.0	42.7	34.2	28.5	21.3
125	-	-	80.5	64.3	53.5	40.0
150	-	-	-	-	83.6	62.7

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מצבת אות במדק בא בעדית במדגעת הממתב ממפ ממבת אות במדק בא באלית במדגעת הממתב ממק אין העיל על על על לעני לעל איני איני אל אינישאר איני אינישאר אינישאר אינישאר אינישאר אינישאר אינישאר אינישאר אינישאר the storage tank thereby rendering it unfit for تُسْمِعُ وَوَسْمُ (وَرُووُوسُ مُنْ مُرْدُورُ مِنْ مُنْ وَسُرُورُورُ وَ مُنْ مِنْ مُنْ اللهِ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهُ اللهِ اللهُ קרבו ק בס קסווו קסובי ו סטבס קממות המתעתב קרים ממממת בייני שיחשיתית

After screening gutters a first flush device is incorporated in the Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting Systems to dispose of the 'first flush' water so that it does not enter the tank. This device will improve the quality of water lengthen the life of system components and reduce overall maintenance.

There are two such simple systems. One is based on a simple manually operated arrangement, where by, the down pipe is moved away from the tank inlet and replaced again once the first flush water has been disposed.

In another simple and semi-automatic system, a separate vertical pipe is fixed to the down pipe with a valve provided below the "T" junction. After the first rain is washed out through first flush pipe, the valve is closed to allow the water to enter the down pipe and reach the storage tank.

First flush diverters are fitted in most of the houses In Maldives. The diverter is manual type and operated during start of rainfall. Generally in islands people diverts the rain water in storage tank after they notice clear water starts coming from first flush diverters. The water from first flush diverters flow through their surface drainage and at some places it is diverted to well for groundwater recharge. Automatic first flush diverter is not seen in Maldives.



Filter Unit:

The filter unit is a container or chamber filled with filter media such as coarse sand, charcoal, coconut fiber, pebbles and gravels to remove the debris and dirt from water that enters the tank. The container is provided with a perforated bottom to allow the passage of water. The filter unit is placed over the storage tank. Commonly used filters are of two types. One is a Ferro cement filter unit, which is comparatively heavy and the other is made of either aluminum or plastic bucket. The latter is readily available in market and has the advantage of ease in cleaning and replacing. Another simple way of filtering the debris and dust particles that came from the roof along with rainwater is to use a fine cloth as filter media. The cloth, in 2 or 3 layers, can be tied to the top of a

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bucket or vessel with perforations at the bottom.

Design of storage tanks:

Storage tank is used to store the water that is collected from the Rooftops. In the rain water harvesting system storage tank is usually the most expensive part (almost 90 % of the total cost). It is therefore essential that careful design is made to provide optimal storage capacity while keeping the cost as low as possible. The design should be durable, watertight and cost effective. It should take in to consideration the appropriate volume with respect to the catchment area, rainfall conditions and water demand. Local materials, skills, cost, personal preferences and other external factors are other important considerations. Care should be taken to protect collected water from contamination. The volume of the storage tank can be determined by knowing the water demand of a family as calculated above. Once the water demand is known, depending upon the requirement and affordability of family the storage tank or cistern can be decided. Important factors to incorporate into the design of a storage tank include adequate capacity; overflow protection; inclusion of a manhole for easy access and inspection. Tank size varies depending on the rainfall pattern and the water demand. When there are long dry spells, roof collection area and the tank size will be large but the wise use of water (good management) and use of alternative water for nondrinking uses will significantly reduce the required roof area and the storage capacity.

There are an almost unlimited number of options for storing water. Common vessels used for very small-scale water storage in developing countries include plastic bowls and buckets, jerry cans, clay or ceramic jars, cement jars, old oil drums, empty food containers, etc. Some of the most popular tanks used in rainwater harvesting are High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE) rainwater tanks. These tanks are most favored because of the various advantages they have. Firstly they can be used above the ground or can be kept even below the ground. They are very light in weight and easy to carry around. They are UV resistant and compared to other varieties, the HDPE tanks are less expensive. Fiberglass rainwater tanks are another popular type of rainwater storage tank. The biggest advantage they have is that they are resistant to rust and chemical corrosion. Fiberglass rainwater tanks can also withstand extreme temperatures.

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concrete, metals, plastic, wood and fiber glass. The Ferro cement tanks are usually constructed above ground level because of the advantages, such as, a) ease in finding structural problems/leaks, b) easy to maintain and clean and c) easy to draw water. It is difficult to detect the leaks and take corrective measures in case of underground tanks. Water from underground tanks cannot be drawn by gravity. Some kind of manual or power lifting devices need to be used for drawing the water. Further, in coastal areas, underground tanks are prone to water contamination due to fluctuation in groundwater table and leakage of stored water.

The storage tank is provided with a cover on the top to avoid the contamination of water from external sources. A lid covers the manhole avoiding exposure of stored water to the outside environment. The storage tank is provided with pipe fixtures at appropriate places to draw the water, to clean the tank and to dispose of the excess water. They are named tap or outlet, drainpipe and over flow pipe respectively. PVC or GI pipes of diameter 20 mm to 25 mm (34 inch to 1 inch) are generally used for this purpose.

Open topped vessels such as buckets and drums are not recommended for collection of rain water for drinking purpose as contamination may easily enter in such open storage vessels. Storage tanks should be opaque to prevent the light to reduce algal growth. Also thinner walled tanks will tend to heat up in hot climate so if the tanks are not shaded, thicker walled Ferro cement or concrete is preferred.

Storage tanks and cisterns

For storing larger quantities of water, the system will require a tank or a cistern. The storage tanks are normally above-ground storage cistern are below-ground storage vessel. These can vary in size from one cubic meter or so (1000 liters) up to hundreds of cubic meters for large projects. The typical maximum size for a domestic system is 20

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or 30 cubic meters. The choice of system will depend on a number of technical and economic considerations listed below.

Space availability

Options available locally

Local traditions for water storage

Cost of purchasing new tank

Cost of materials and labour for construction

Materials and skills available locally

Ground conditions

Use of RWH - whether the system will provide total or partial water supply

One of the main choices will be whether to use a tank or a cistern. Both tanks and cisterns have their advantages and disadvantages. Table below summarizes the pros and cons of each:

	Tank (above ground)	Cistern (underground)
Pros	 Above ground structure allows easy inspection for leakages Many existing designs to choose from Can be easily purchased 'off-the-shelf' Can be manufactured from a wide variety of materials Easy to construct from traditional materials Water extraction can be by gravity in many cases Can be raised above ground level to increase water 	Generally cheaper due to lower material requirements Not vulnerable to water loss by tap left open Require little or no space above ground Unobtrusive Surrounding ground gives support allowing lower wall thickness, and thus lower costs Water is cooler
Cons	 Require space Generally more expensive More easily damaged 	 Water extraction is more problematic, often requiring a pump Leaks are more
	Prone to attack from weatherFailure can be	difficult to detect Contamination of the cistern from

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dangerous	groundwater is
	more common
	 Tree roots can
	damage the
	structure
	 There is danger to
	children and small
	animals if the
	cistern is left
	uncovered
	 Flotation of the
	cistern may occur
	if groundwater
	level is high and
	the cistern is
	empty.
	 Heavy vehicles
	driving over a
	cistern can cause
	damage

Ferro cement tanks

Tanks of larger capacity can be made of Ferro cement, which are cheaper to construct than tanks made of masonry, block work, reinforced concrete etc., and do not require the rendering with waterproof cement mortar that masonry and block work often need.

Above ground level, tanks are constructed with a plain or reinforced concrete base, cylindrical walls of Ferro cement and a roof of Ferro cement, or sometimes mild steel sheeting.

The construction of Ferro cement walls is carried out by first assembling a cylindrical mesh of chicken wire and/or fence wire reinforcement, with or without the aid of formwork. On to this, a cement-rich mortar of 3:1 sand: cement is applied by trowel and built up in layers of about 15 mm to a finished thickness of between 30 to 100 mm, depending on wall height and tank diameter.

Thicker walls may have two layers of mesh. The mesh helps to control local cracking and the higher walls may call for the provision of small diameter vertical steel reinforcing bars for bending resistance. Sometimes barbed fence wire is wound spirally up the wall to assist with resistance to ring tension and stress distribution.

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Effective curing of the mortar between the trowelling of each layer is very important and affects the durability of the material and its resistance to cracking. Mortar should be still green when the next layer is placed.

This means that the time gap between layers should be between 12 and 24 hours. The finished material should then be cured continuously for up to 10 days under damp Hessian, or other sheeting.

A Ferro cement tank is easy to repair and, if the mortar has been properly applied and cured, should provide long service as a water-retaining structure at a fraction of the cost of a reinforced concrete structure.

Waste water collection pit:

A small pit is dug in the ground, beneath the tap of the storage tank and constructed in brick masonry to make a chamber, so that a vessel could be conveniently placed beneath the tap for collecting water from the storage tank. A small hole is left at the bottom of the chamber, to allow the excess water to drain-out without stagnation. Size of collection pit shall be 60 cm x 60 cm x 60 cm.

A checklist for design:

System components

A typical rain water collection system for domestic use will consist of following key components

- a. Catchment area
- b. Conveyance system
- c. Storage tank

Design the appropriate roof for rain water collection

- Only the roof water should be collected for drinking and cooking purposes
- A flat roof with gentle slope will drain water towards the storage tank
- Provide clean and impervious roof made from non-toxic materials
- d. Lead based paints should be avoided
- e. Sloping roof should have gutter (plastic or other available material) to collect water and channel it down to down pipe
- f. Roof should be neat and easy to clean when

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Conveyance system (Gutters and down pipes)

- e. Easy access for inspection and maintenance should be provided
- f. PVC pipes resistant to UV rays can be a best choice
- g. Sufficient gradient should be provided in the gutters for free flow to down pipes
- h. Provide course filter and first flush devices before the water enters the down pipe

Storage system

- Decide the location properly where to install storage tank (ground level or underground) and away from places of contamination like toilets, septic tanks etc.
- b. Select the type of storage tank (HDPE or cement concrete or other)
- Provide an overflow pipe to direct the excess water to suitable place (may be another storage tank!)
- d. Wire mesh to cover storage tank inlet
- e. Provide a well-covered manhole for easy access and inspection of the tank
- f. Provide tank tap or draw off pipe at sufficient height to draw water
- g. Storage area should be accessible for maintenance and repairs
- h. Storage tank must be impervious to light to prevent growth of algae and bacteria.

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