

B.3 CISTERN**DESCRIPTION**

Cisterns are containers which capture stormwater runoff as it comes down through the roof gutter system. This collected stormwater can later be used to water the garden or lawn. The collection of this stormwater reduces the amount of stormwater runoff and assists in the reduction of potential pollutants entering the stormwater conveyance system.

ADVANTAGES

1. Low installation cost.
2. Requires little space for installation.
3. Reduces amount of stormwater runoff.
4. Conserves water usage.

LIMITATIONS

1. Limited amount of stormwater runoff can be captured.
2. Restricted to structure runoff.
3. Aesthetically unpleasing.

DESIGN CRITERIA

1. Calculate the volume of stormwater to be mitigated by the cistern using the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works *Method for Calculating Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) Flow Rates and Volumes Based on 0.75-inches of Rainfall*.

REFERENCES

1. *Low-Impact Development Design Manual*, November 1997. Department of Environmental Resources, Prince George's County, MD.
2. Rainwater Collection and Gray Water as alternative Water Supply Sources. http://www.mindspring.com/~roadrunner1/Family_Focus/Rainwater_Collection.html.
3. T. Richman, J. Worth, P. Dawe, J. Aldrich, and B. Ferguson, 1997. *Start at the Source: Residential Site Planning and Design Guidance Manual for Stormwater Quality Protection*, Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association, San Francisco, CA.