

troubleshooting

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Troubleshooting Rainwater Harvesting Systems

Algae growth in the cistern.

- Water with algae growth is still usable for landscape watering. To reduce algae growth, which could clog up the system or slow down water flow, clean the system on a regular basis. Placing the cistern in the shade or underground or using dark barrels will help discourage algae growth.

Leaves on the roof or in gutters.

- Obstructions and leaves caught in the gutters can reduce the amount of rain captured. Clean gutters on a regular basis for maximum collection.

Finding a cistern.

- A variety of containers can be found at farm supply stores, local hardware stores, or on the Internet.

Generating enough pressure to run a sprinkler.

- Water gains 1 psi of pressure for every 2.31 feet the cistern is elevated. A sprinkler requires at least 20 psi. An auxiliary pump may need to be installed to generate enough pressure. Solar powered pumps work well. Or use a drip irrigation system, which uses less power and water.

Pasted from <http://www.greenbuildingblocks.com/ideas_and_answers/solutions/2007/6/19/rainwater_harvesting/page3.go>