

NC COASTAL FEDERATION LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT:

# RAINWATER CISTERNS

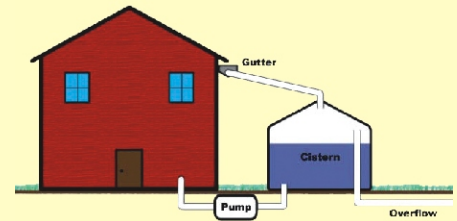
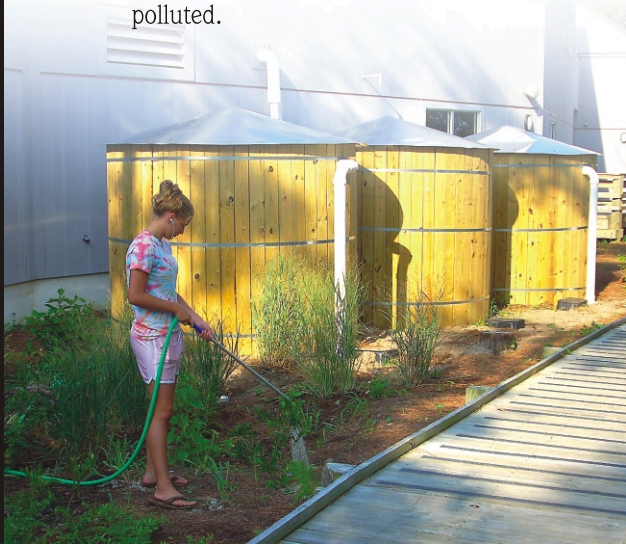


## What are Cisterns?

- Cisterns are tanks made out of plastic, metal or cement that capture runoff from rooftops of houses or buildings.
- Gutters on buildings can be used to collect and direct water into cisterns.
- Cisterns can hold anywhere from hundreds to thousands of gallons of water.

## Why install cisterns?

- They reduce the amount of stormwater running off your property onto roads and into stormdrains.
- Cisterns can save you money on monthly water bills.
- Captured stormwater has many uses. It can be used to irrigate lawns or gardens. It can also be used to flush toilets and wash cars.
- If filtered and purified, captured stormwater can be connected directly into houses for everyday purposes such as washing dishes, drinking water, and showering.
- Cisterns represent a type of passive method in creating resilient communities in the coastal zones. In case of large storms, hurricanes or drought, the stored water could allow people to stay in their homes longer when municipal water sources are shut down or when wells are polluted.



## Resources

- **NC State BAE Stormwater Home Page/NC Cooperative Extension Info**  
[www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/waterharvesting](http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/waterharvesting)
- **NC Division of Water Quality Best Management Practice (BMP) Manual**  
[http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/su/bmp\\_forms.htm](http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/su/bmp_forms.htm)
- **NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)**  
[www.enr.state.nc.us/DSWC/pages/ccap\\_program.html](http://www.enr.state.nc.us/DSWC/pages/ccap_program.html)
- **Low Impact Development Center Website (Costs of cisterns)**  
[www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/qapp/raincist\\_cost.htm](http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/qapp/raincist_cost.htm)
- **Rainwater Harvesting Guide**  
[www.rain-barrel.net/category/rainwater-harvesting](http://www.rain-barrel.net/category/rainwater-harvesting)



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*"Citizens Working Together for A Healthy Coast"*

The North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) is the state's only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy and habitat restoration and preservation. For more information call 252.393.8185 or check out NCCF's website at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org).