# Rainwater Harvesting Setup

This playbook describes the step-by-step process for designing and installing a rainwater harvesting system aimed at reducing reliance on municipal water sources by collecting and utilizing rainwater.

### Step 1: Assessment

Evaluate the potential for rainwater harvesting at your location by considering factors like average rainfall, roof catchment area, and intended use of harvested water.

### Step 2: Design

Create a comprehensive design for the system that includes components such as gutters, downspouts, storage tanks, filters, and conveyance systems. Ensure the design meets local regulations and building codes.

### Step 3: Materials

Gather all necessary materials and tools based on the design. This may include tanks, pipes, filters, first flush diverters, pumps, and fittings.

### Step 4: Installation

Install gutters and downspouts to direct water from the roof into the storage tanks. Set up filtration systems to remove debris before water enters the storage tank. Ensure the storage tanks are securely placed on a stable foundation and that all connections are watertight.

### Step 5: Plumbing

Connect the storage tanks to the plumbing system of the building, if the water is to be used indoors. Include appropriate backflow prevention measures to avoid contamination of the municipal water supply.

### Step 6: Testing

Test the system to ensure all components are functioning properly. Check for leaks, test the filtration system, and ensure the conveyance system efficiently moves water into the tanks.

### Step 7: Maintenance

Establish a routine maintenance schedule to check and clean gutters, filters, and tanks. Replace or repair any damaged components as needed to ensure the system continues to work efficiently.

## General Notes

### Permits

Before starting the installation, check with local authorities regarding permits and guidelines for rainwater harvesting in your area.

### Water Treatment

If the harvested rainwater is intended for indoor use, consider additional water treatment systems to make the water potable.

### Overflow

Incorporate an overflow strategy into the design to manage excess water during heavy rainfall events, which may include redirecting overflow to a stormwater system or a dedicated soakaway.