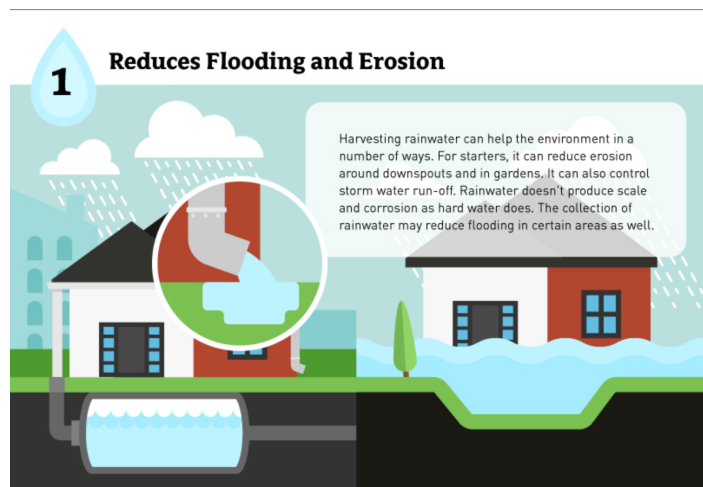


Rainwater Harvesting Benefits

1. Reduces flooding and soil erosion

Rainwater harvesting captures rain and collects it to be used throughout the building. This diverts water that would otherwise cause flooding in events of high rainfall. This also diverts water from eroding river banks and streams and other areas as water runs downhill through it. Less dramatic flooding helps preserve the ecosystem and keep landscapes intact.



2. Reduces water demand

With domestic and commercial water being primarily tap water, switching to rainwater reduces demand of the municipal water supply. In domestic use, rainwater harvesting decreases reliance on groundwater which when removed for use can collapse the ground where the water used to be. Groundwater is a major constituent of freshwater added to streams and lakes as well.

3. Reduces pollution transportation

In an area like UW, rainwater harvesting can divert water that would run into Lake Union or Lake Washington and carry with it all of the pollutants from the roads surrounding the campus. This reduces the amount of pollution that would accumulate in these lakes, and consequently, food webs.

4. Saves Money

Despite a large initial cost, there is less demand for municipal water. Once the system is installed, no payment is needed for the water whereas municipal water is paid for by use. Maintenance fees should be minimal.