



## A Variety of Rainwater Catch Tanks

The homeowner has a number of options from which to choose their perfect rainwater catch tank.

Most people are familiar with the cement tanks (bottom left photo). These tanks are prevalent in our area and have been used for years to hold livestock water and as swimming pools. However, the drawbacks to these tanks are debris and evaporation. These tanks do not provide sufficient protection for human drinking water.

The metal tank (top left photo) comes in many sizes and works extremely well for rainwater catch systems. Constructed on site, the tanks have a plastic bladder to hold the water on the inside of the tank. These tanks range from just a couple of thousand gallons all the way to 65,000 gallons plus. Although these tanks can be more attractive than other options, they also are usually more expensive.

Often, homeowners will choose poly tanks (top right

photo). A good cost estimate for these tanks is approximately .50 per gallon of capacity and can be as large as 20,000 gallons. However, most you see come in sizes ranging up to 3,000 gallons. For one story homeowners, the larger poly tanks are often too tall for adequate drop from the gutter system. To get around the height issue, some homeowners buy several smaller tanks of 1,500 gallons to 2,500 gallons

and link them together to provide adequate storage for their families. If purchasing a poly tank, buy a dark color. Light colored tanks promote algae growth.

Since the poly tanks are not as attractive as other options, some owners utilize wood or other materials to disguise the tank (bottom right photo).

Whichever tank you choose, a pad will need to be installed to provide a level surface.

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