



# RAINWATER HARVESTING

## WHY HARVEST RAINWATER?

We tend to use tap-water for all of our water needs. This water is cleaned, treated and pumped to our houses and is of drinking quality. But most of the water we use in our homes and schools doesn't need to be of drinking quality. If you are having a new school or school extension built, you can get a simple gravity-fed system installed in the roof of the building which collects rain water to flush the toilets. It is quite expensive to retrofit such systems, but schools can collect rainwater simply and inexpensively for other uses.

## WHAT YOU CAN USE RAINWATER FOR IN SCHOOL:

Rinsing out recyclables, washing art equipment, watering indoor (and outdoor) plants etc...

## HOW TO HARVEST RAINWATER:

There are several rainwater butts available to buy commercially. These usually come with a diverter kit which attaches to your downpipe and stops the butt from overflowing once it is full. Prices start at about €50. Make sure to get a water butt with a tamper-proof lid for safety.



You can also use any container and buy a diverter kit for about €10. The container pictured originally contained detergent for a car-wash. It was rinsed out and used by a school to collect rainwater for rinsing recyclables. Make sure the container does not have an open top and is child-safe and tamper-proof.



## RAINWATER CALCULATION: HOW TO CALCULATE THE AMOUNT OF RAINWATER YOU COULD EXPECT TO HARVEST OFF YOUR ROOF:

- Calculate the area of your roof in square metres
- Find out what the annual rainfall is in your part of the country (see guide below)
- Multiply the area by the rainfall to get the amount of water (in litres) that you could expect to harvest off your roof in a year.

### Average Annual Rainfall in Ireland

□ < 800mm	■ 1600-1999mm
□ 800-1199mm	■ 2000-2400mm
□ 1200-1599mm	■ > 2400mm

