



Purpose of the Ordinance

- To encourage residents to engage in water conservation activities.
- To simplify the process homeowners must go through to install rainwater harvesting systems.
- To ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

Exceptions

- Deviations from height, setback, and screening requirements are only allowed by Special Exception of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- Any other uses not covered by this ordinance must be approved through the Special Permit process of the City Plan Commission.

**For more information, Contact the
Building Inspection Department
(972)-744-4180**



Richardson's Commitment to the Environment

Richardson is continuing to make great strides in leading the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex with innovative environmental initiatives. Our website, GreenCOR.net, features recent news and events happening in the City, in addition to environmental education and programs for citizens. Explore

GreenCOR.net and join Richardson in its efforts to become more environmentally sustainable

Thank you for your interest in Rainwater Harvesting.

City of Richardson

411 W. Arapaho
Richardson, Texas 75080
www.greencor.net

Rainwater Harvesting Ordinance

City of Richardson
Environmental Initiatives



Permit & Registration Requirements

Regardless of size, all systems must comply with the requirements of this ordinance; however, a permit is only required for systems that hold 400 cumulative gallons or more. A typical rain barrel only holds about 60 gallons of water. This means that if you plan to install a single storage tank that holds more than 400 gallons or more than six rain barrels (60 gal), then you need a permit.

Systems that hold less than 400 gallons and do not require a permit must be registered online at GreenCor.net. There is no fee for registration.

Additional permits may also be required for systems that have permanent mechanical or electrical components.



A Brief Summary of the Requirements for Richardson's Rainwater Harvesting Ordinance

Rainwater Harvesting Allowable Uses are restricted to outdoor irrigation and foundation watering only.

Required Components

Rainwater Harvesting Systems must have a:

- Rooftop catchment surface
- Debris excluder (leaf screen, roof washer, first-flush diverter, etc.)
- Storage tank(s)
- Delivery system (gravity or pump fed)

Connection to Potable Water

To prevent backflow contamination, an [air gap](#) or [reduced pressure principle backflow assembly](#) is required when using potable water as a supplementary water source for your rainwater harvesting system.

Storage Tanks Must:

- Be opaque to prevent algae growth
- Have never been used to store hazardous materials
- Be covered, vents screened

- Be accessible for cleaning & repair
- Have locked/secured openings
- Have an overflow port
- Be placed on stable/level surface
- Be 8 feet or less in height
- Have a 1:1 setback if laid underground

Additional Requirements

Systems must be maintained to prevent mosquito breeding and be labeled "**RAINWATER DO NOT DRINK**" or with a similar phrase to prevent accidental ingestion of non-potable water.

Setback and Screening

Systems are only allowed in the side yard if setback 7' from the property line or in the rear yard if setback 3' from the property line. Systems must be screened from view of the adjacent property by a wood fence or landscape screening wall that is 6' tall or the height of the system, whichever is greater.

