



Basics of Rainwater harvesting



What is Rainwater Harvesting (RWH)?

“Capture rain water, store it and use it - it is as simple as that”.

Collect the rain water falling on house tops, collection ponds, lakes, open areas with natural grading.

Rain water is naturally pure (excepting where it becomes acid rain due to industrial pollution). Ground water could be salty or brackish

Water everywhere starts as Rain

Rain is the source of all water in the world. 98% of the world’s supply of water is salt water in the oceans. 1% of purewater is in the arctic glaciers. The last 1% goes through the water cycle.



Water requirements and Usage by a family. (in India)

Litres per day per person

Drinking	3
Cooking	4
Bathing	20
Flushing	40
Washing clothes	25
Washing utensils	20
Gardening	23
Total	135

Biggest usage takes place while flushing the toilet with pure drinking water.



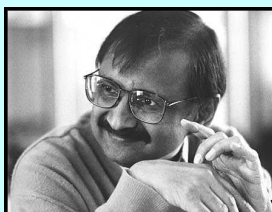
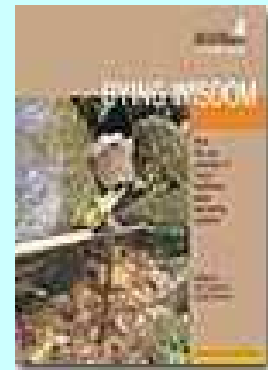
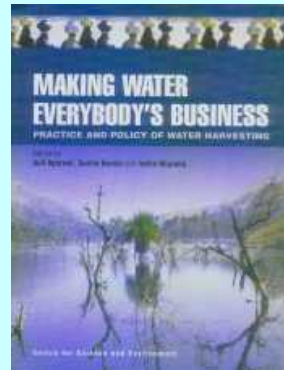
Simplest form of RWH

Did you know that?

A well is not a storage tank to hold water. It helps to collect the rain water and charge it underground and later bring it out.



Roof water and run off water can be diverted into dried up bore wells after filling of the wells with pebbles and river sand. There should be an effective arrangement for desilting before diverting the water into these wells.



Anil Agarwal

Anil Kumar Agarwal, the founder of the Centre for Science and Environment, spearheaded the Jal Swaraj campaign. His thoughts, ideas and opinions remain the driving force behind the movement.

Agarwal conceptualized and edited the CSE publications *Dying Wisdom* - which explores the tremendous potential of India's traditional water harvesting systems - and *Making Water Everybody's Business* - which documents water harvesting technologies that are being practiced even today by communities in various parts of the country. These two widely-read books (shown above) have gone a long way in putting the issue of community-based water management on the national agenda. Agarwal, a graduate of IIT Kanpur, passed away on January 2, 2002