

# Pooling Water

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A stack of Eco Rain Cubes prior to assembly

Photo Cathy Dausman

Cistern construction began with the assembly of Eco Rain Cubes. These plastic cubes were shipped flat and assembled into something resembling oversized milk crates measuring roughly 18 by 16 by 27 inches. The cubes were stacked horizontally, five layers high in the pool cavity. The cube collection was double wrapped, first with a felt filter fabric, and then with an impermeable plastic liner. When the project is complete, the cistern will be all but invisible beneath new water-wise landscaping and a bocce court.

Five downspouts with 4-inch PVC drainpipes will divert rainwater from the roof into the cistern. Each square foot of roof runoff yields about a half gallon of water. The water will feed a drip system and irrigate new backyard water-wise plantings.

Twelve hundred square feet of the Johnson's roof is being used to collect rainwater runoff. In a non-drought year the Johnsons could recycle as much as 28,000 to 32,000 gallons of water. This would provide at least three months of landscape irrigation water for their backyard. And rainwater, unlike graywater, does not have to be used within 24 hours. City water feeds the system when it does not rain.

Wolosenko said cistern installation costs are dependent upon size, but average \$2 to \$3 per gallon of water stored. Wolosenko has personal experience with pool upkeep, having lived in several houses with backyard pools. "I hated those pools," she said, emphasizing the expensive monthly upkeep she incurred with each one.



Fully assembled Eco Rain Cube

Photo Cathy Dausman

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