

How to Set Up a Rain Collector

Why build a rain collector?

With water shortages, droughts and floods occurring increasingly often around the globe, it pays to have an insurance policy in place to cope if disaster hits. A rain collector system, even if not used all the time, is an effective way to collect water that falls freely from the sky. The water can be used in the garden and house, and if filtered, for drinking and cooking. A simple rain collection system is easy to set up, can help reduce water bills, and is a real asset to have on hand in case of emergency.

How to set it up

1. First, decide where you will set up the rain collector system.
2. Measure the area.
3. Purchase a sheet of thin plastic large enough to be draped over the area, as well as a water tank and pegs or other tools to attach the sheet.
4. Clip or otherwise attach the edges of the plastic sheet so that it hangs down over the area.
5. Test pour some water onto the sheet and check it flows into the tank. Reposition the tank as necessary.



The installed system



20L water tank

Components

Item	Where to buy
Vinyl sheet (ビニール シート)	Tokyu Hands
Water container tank	Tokyu Hands, department stores, home stores
Laundry clips	Any supermarket

Tips and notes

- Invest in a good water filtration system, preferably portable, to enable rainwater to be consumed.
- Instead of having rainwater drain off an edge of the vinyl sheet into the water tank, it may be easier to make a hole in the sheet and position the water tank under the hole.
- If rainwater collection systems such as this one were installed over a 2,500 sq m car park, potentially up to 37,500 L of rainwater could be collected in just one day. That's enough to give 500 people 75 L each – potentially a life saver in the aftermath of a disaster.



Clips attaching plastic sheet to a window frame

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