



## Triple Rock Land Cooperative—rainwater catchment information

TRLC is committed to the use of rainwater catchment for all household needs, both inside and outside the house. Also, the common house relies solely on water catchment.

### Reasons for this policy

- Protect groundwater and the health of the ecosystem
- Encourage a culture and mindset of careful resource use
- Encourage communal rather than individual activities (gardening, laundry, meals)
- Avoid the costs, environmental impacts, potential for personal conflict, and ongoing administration needs connected to building a communal water system
- Support adaptability to varying household sizes and a changing climate by adding or removing storage and catchment capacity

### Overview

The system has been functioning well for 12 years. Some members have at times bought water, but this practice is diminishing as households add cisterns and/or catchment surfaces, and as common facilities and activities increase. The TRLC project is a complex organism of interrelated parts—the water catchment system is dependent on other elements of the project being in place. The past five years has brought major garden and orchard expansion, shared laundry facilities, a flush toilet, and a functional kitchen. As a result, members are letting individual gardens rewild, doing laundry at the common house, and attending common meals several times a week, thus cutting down on private water use.

### Details

There are 98,850 gallons of rainwater catchment at the TRLC. Based on a survey of TRLC residents:

- Average water use per household: 14 gallons/day (winter)/44 (summer)
- Average water use per resident: 8 gallons/day (winter)/26 gallons/day (summer)
- Average water use per resident (average over the year): 15.5 gallons

**Provincial average per person** (average over the year): 82 gallons/day gallons

(<https://waterplanninglab.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2016/03/BC-Municipal-Water-Survey-2016.pdf>)

Each household is provided with one 1000-gallon cistern from the common budget, and otherwise is responsible for their whole system, including filtration and maintenance. Households use composting toilets (which they are responsible for), which cuts down household water use by approximately 1/3, according to standard estimate.