

POSITION STATEMENT

Question:

Private rainwater harvesting system (private water supply) for non-potable irrigation use; including indoor non-potable uses, not connected to any public potable water supply system?

Answer:

First, private rainwater harvesting systems for non-potable use *shall* have the same municipal regulatory status as private domestic water wells for non-potable use. It is the present plumbing code position that the City of Dallas does not regulate private non-potable domestic water wells (private water supply) and, to extrapolate, *shall* not regulate private non-potable rainwater harvesting systems. The end-use purpose for plumbing and irrigation systems *shall* be reviewed, permitted and inspected.

Second, due diligence consideration *shall* be given to protecting (isolating) the public potable water supply system. It is the City of Dallas position that standards in the form of guidelines be recommended; therefore, the following is recommended for private rainwater harvesting;

The ISSUE is:

materials of construction:

treatment technology:

treatment goals:

distribution design:

piping identification:

The STANDARD IS:

ANSI/NSF Std 61 potable water certification not needed.

Pre-treatment, first-flush, roof washer, or other appropriate pre-filtration method. Treatment, bag or cartridge filtration with a 5-micron sediment filter and periodic chlorination with household bleach.

total Coli form: < 500 CFU/ml
Fecal Coli form: < 100 CFU/100ml
Turbidity: < 10 NTU

- ***Water should be tested annually.***

IPC 2006, 608.6.1. **Private water supplies.** Cross connections between a private water supply and a potable public supply shall be prohibited. Therefore, a dedicated non-potable water distribution system *shall* be designed and required for all rainwater harvesting system outlet supply connections. The emphasis *shall* be to completely protect (isolate) the public potable water supply system from cross-connections by a permanent separation.

IPC 2006, 608.8. **Identification of potable and non-potable water.** In all buildings where two or more water

distribution systems, one potable water and the other non-potable water, are installed, each system shall be identified either by color marking or metal tags in accordance with Sections 608.8.1 through 608.8.3.

Conclusion

The private rainwater harvesting system for non-potable uses *shall* meet the above Standards; the plumbing and irrigation end-use systems *shall* be reviewed, permitted and inspected.