



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM  
150 N. 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 130, Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Phone: 602-364-3952 Fax: 602-364-3146

**Harvested Rainwater Attestation**

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS or the Department) School Garden Program requires that a signed attestation be on file for processes, like rainwater harvesting, that require additional information to be provided. An attestation is a written confirmation that a particular document is genuine and in good faith. In order to implement rainwater harvesting, the Department requires a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to be in place that addresses various health and safety risks.

For your convenience, the Department has created an SOP that can be utilized by your school garden program. The SOP should address the methods used to mitigate public nuisances, health hazards, or safety risks, and must follow the guidelines below:

- a. Minimize mosquito breeding by:
  - i. Screening all inlets; and
  - ii. Reducing or eliminating standing water.
- b. Follow good rainwater harvesting guidelines, as defined in the Rainwater Harvesting SOP, and ensure that:
  - i. The roof's construction materials and design minimize the risk for contamination;
  - ii. The rainwater cistern's placement, construction materials used (i.e. container), and overall design (i.e. first flush device, overflow, cleanout pipes, filters, screens hose spigot location, etc.) minimize the risk for contamination;
  - iii. The water collected in the first flush device is discarded immediately after every rainfall event;
  - iv. The rainwater cistern and roof are monitored for sources of contamination;
  - v. The rainwater cistern must be accessible for regular inspection, maintenance and cleaning. It is recommended that the interior of the cistern is cleaned at least annually using a non-toxic cleaner;
  - vi. The rainwater harvesting system follows one of the three requirements below:
    1. The system is well designed, as defined in the Rainwater Harvesting SOP, and meets good rainwater harvesting guidelines;
    2. The system does not meet good rainwater harvesting guidelines, but harvested rainwater will only be used for direct soil irrigation; or
    3. The system does not meet good rainwater harvesting guidelines and is used for direct soil and foliar irrigation with harvested rainwater that is tested 3 times during the growing season for the following:
      - a. *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) (must be less than 126 CFU/100mL); and
      - b. Lead (must be less than 10 mg/L).
  - vii. All lab test results are maintained for at least two years and made available upon inspection.

Please submit the following items to the ADHS School Garden Program before using harvested rainwater on produce grown in a school garden:

- a. A signed Harvested Rainwater Attestation;
- b. A complete SOP for harvested rainwater, including all logs pertaining to the process;
- c. A photo of the system, including the roof.
- d. E. coli and lead test results that demonstrate E. coli presence is less than 126 CFU/100mL and lead presence is less than 10mg/L for harvested rainwater used from a rainwater harvesting system that does not meet good rainwater harvesting guidelines and will be used for direct and foliar irrigation. NOTE: This test is not required for well-designed rainwater harvesting systems or any systems that are used only for direct soil irrigation.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact our ADHS School Garden Sanitarian at 602-364-3952 or through email at [SchoolGarden@azdhs.gov](mailto:SchoolGarden@azdhs.gov).



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**Harvested Rainwater Attestation Form**

School Garden: \_\_\_\_\_

Person In Charge: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Harvested Rainwater Guidelines:**

The following guidelines have been implemented in the rainwater harvesting system to mitigate public nuisances, health hazards, or safety risks:

- a. Minimize mosquito breeding by:
  - i. Screening all inlets; and
  - ii. Reducing or eliminating standing water.
- b. Follow good rainwater harvesting guidelines, as defined in the Rainwater Harvesting SOP, and ensure that:
  - i. The roof's construction materials and design minimize the risk for contamination;
  - ii. The rainwater cistern's placement, construction materials used (i.e. container), and overall design (i.e. first flush device, overflow, cleanout pipes, filters, screens hose spigot location, etc.) minimize the risk for contamination;
  - iii. The water collected in the first flush device is discarded immediately after every rainfall event;
  - iv. The rainwater cistern and roof are monitored for sources of contamination;
  - v. The rainwater cistern must be accessible for regular inspection, maintenance and cleaning. It is recommended that the interior of the cistern is cleaned annually with a non-toxic cleaner;
  - vi. The rainwater harvesting system follows one of the three requirements below:
    1. The system is well designed, as defined in the Rainwater Harvesting SOP, and meets good rainwater harvesting guidelines;
    2. The system does not meet good rainwater harvesting guidelines, but harvested rainwater will only be used for direct soil irrigation; or
    3. The system does not meet good rainwater harvesting guidelines and is used for direct soil and foliar irrigation with harvested rainwater that is tested 3 times during the growing season for the following:
      - a. *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) (must be less than 126 CFU/100mL); and
      - b. Lead (must be less than 10 mg/L).
  - vii. All lab test results are maintained for at least two years and made available upon inspection.

The following items will be submitted to the ADHS School Garden Program before using harvested rainwater on produce grown in a school garden:

- a. A signed Harvested Rainwater Attestation;
- b. A complete SOP for harvested rainwater, including all logs pertaining to the process;
- c. A photo of the system, including the roof.
- d. E. coli and lead test results that demonstrate E. coli presence is less than 126 CFU/100mL and lead presence is less than 10mg/L for harvested rainwater used from a rainwater harvesting system that does not meet good rainwater harvesting guidelines and will be used for direct and foliar irrigation. NOTE: This test is not required for well-designed rainwater harvesting systems or any systems that are used only for direct soil irrigation.

I hereby attest that the above rainwater harvesting guidelines in conjunction with the enclosed SOP will be followed when using harvested rainwater on edible plants grown in the school's garden(s) for use in the school's cafeteria. Additionally, I agree to notify the ADHS School Garden Program when the SOP is updated or revised.

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Principal or School Representative: Print Name

Signature

Date