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Rainwater Collection & Storage

Simple Setup with Tarps

1. Tarp Funnel Method

- Spread a clean tarp slightly angled toward a collection point.
- Runoff channels into a container (*trash bin, barrel, or buried cistern*).

2. Buried Container Reservoir

- Dig a hole for a food-grade barrel or IBC tote.
- Cover with a lid to prevent contamination and evaporation.
- Funnel water via tarp, gutter, or PVC pipe.

3. Storage Tips

- Use **food-grade containers only**.
- Keep containers covered and shaded to prevent algae growth.
- Add **1 tsp of unscented bleach per 5 gallons** if long-term storage is needed.
- Rotate every 6–12 months.

Low-Cost Urban Hacks

- **Buckets & Barrels:** Restaurants/bakeries often give away food-grade buckets free.
- **DIY Grow Bags:** Use old rice sacks, feed bags, or reusable shopping bags.
- **Vertical Gardening:** Pallets or shelves maximize tiny balconies.
- **Rainwater Pre-Filter:** Stretch a T-shirt or screen over the barrel opening to keep out debris.

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