

Long before modern drinking water facilities were developed, rainwater catchment was used as a method of collecting drinking water. Today, there are still parts of the world, like the U.S. Virgin Islands and Bermuda, that rely heavily on rainwater catchment to meet their drinking water needs.

To ensure the health and safety of those using this method, NSF created the Rainwater Catchment System Components program. This program establishes testing guidelines for products that come in direct contact with rainwater that is used for drinking. These products include gutters, coatings and liners placed on rooftops and ground surfaces.

The foundation of this program is NSF P151, a protocol created by a team of NSF scientists and water quality experts that confirms rainwater catchment products do not impart contaminants into the water at levels that exceed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water regulations or advisories.

NSF Protocol P151
Health Effects from Rainwater
Catchment System Components

NSF

In 2013, the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association and the American Society of Plumbing Engineers published the first plumbing and design standard for rainwater catchment systems. This standard, ARCSA/ASPE 63 requires that flat roof products be certified to NSF P151. In addition, ARCSA/ASPE 78, which addresses storm water utilization, was published in 2015 and also contains requirements for products to be certified to NSF P151.

For more information on NSF P151, please contact americas@nsf.org.

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