

Factors to consider when choosing your rainwater capture system:

### Before You Install

Contact your local jurisdiction and consult the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program's Technical Guidance Manual, available in the Library of Resources at [www.cleanwaterprogram.org/publications\\_home.htm](http://www.cleanwaterprogram.org/publications_home.htm).

### Soils

A variety of factors, including slopes, soil types, high groundwater and stability may limit or prevent the use of certain capture systems. Soils range from having a high sand content to a high clay content, and filter water at different rates. Check with your local jurisdiction to determine the soil type in your area and the rainwater capture systems appropriate for your property.

### Mosquitoes

When implemented correctly, rainwater capture systems do not allow mosquitoes to breed. Ensure that water infiltrates into the ground within five days, or stored water is sealed off to prevent mosquito access. For more information, contact the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District.



## Helpful Contact Information

### Municipal Representatives:

For help choosing your rainwater capture system, contact your municipal representative: [http://cleanwaterprogram.org/businesses\\_developers.htm](http://cleanwaterprogram.org/businesses_developers.htm) (scroll down to Contact List of new development municipal program representatives).

### Low Impact Development Center, Inc.:

More about rain gardens, pervious pavement, rain barrels and other stormwater capture systems. [www.lowimpactdevelopment.org](http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org) (805) 540-9772

**StopWaste:** Recycling, household hazardous waste, green building and bay-friendly landscaping in Alameda County.

[www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org)  
(510) 891-6500

**The Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District:** Mosquito breeding prevention tips.

[www.mosquitoes.org](http://www.mosquitoes.org)  
(510) 783-7744

**Bay Friendly Gardening:** Gardening and landscaping practices that foster healthy soils, conserve water, and prevent pollution.

[www.bayfriendly.org](http://www.bayfriendly.org)  
(510) 891-6500

**Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association:**

Programs for stormwater quality in the greater San Francisco Bay Area.  
[www.basmaa.org](http://www.basmaa.org)



Alameda Countywide  
Clean Water Program

A Consortium of Local Agencies  
[www.cleanwaterprogram.org](http://www.cleanwaterprogram.org)

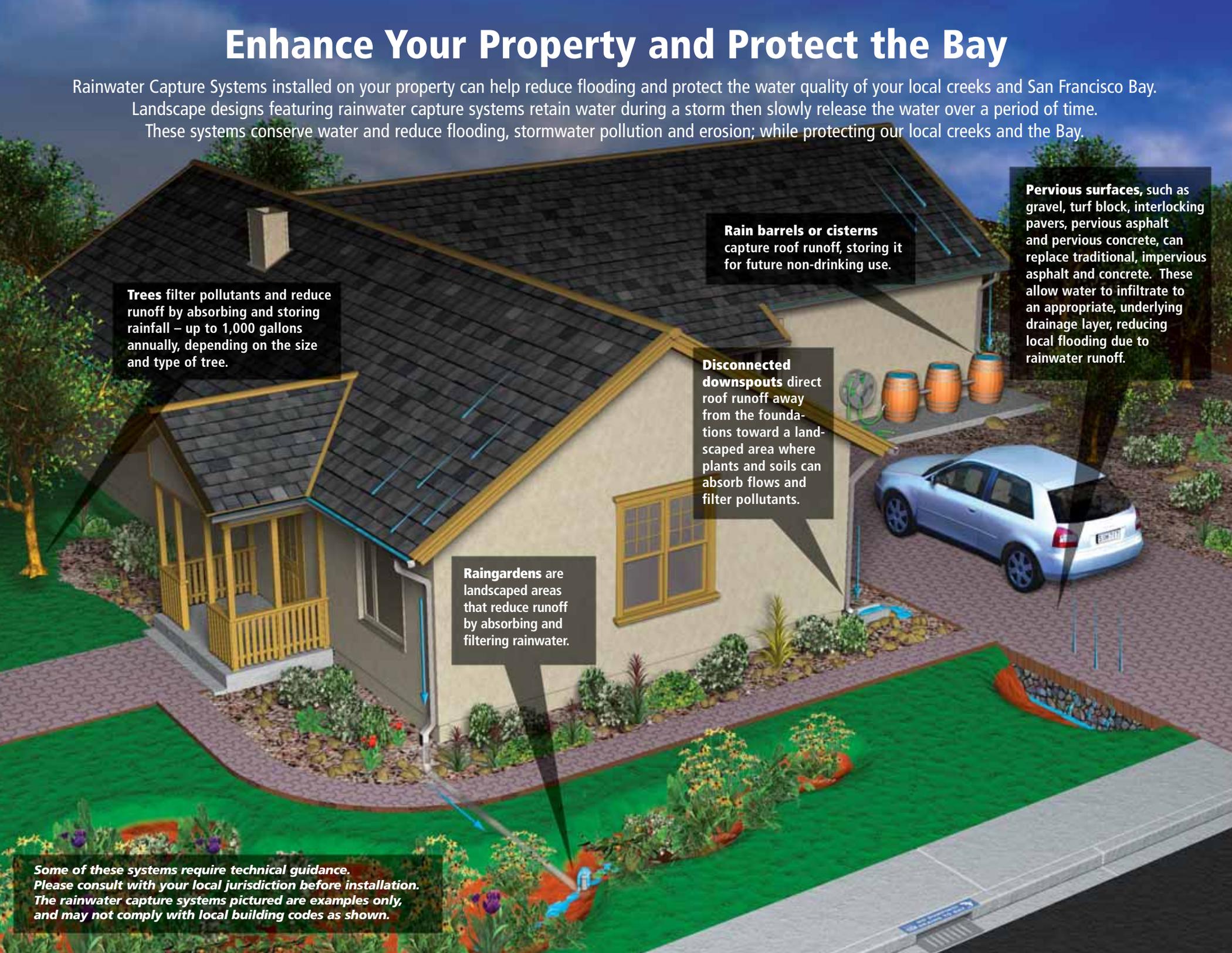
# Detain the Rain

*Your yard can make  
a difference for the Bay.*



# Enhance Your Property and Protect the Bay

Rainwater Capture Systems installed on your property can help reduce flooding and protect the water quality of your local creeks and San Francisco Bay. Landscape designs featuring rainwater capture systems retain water during a storm then slowly release the water over a period of time. These systems conserve water and reduce flooding, stormwater pollution and erosion; while protecting our local creeks and the Bay.



**Trees** filter pollutants and reduce runoff by absorbing and storing rainfall – up to 1,000 gallons annually, depending on the size and type of tree.

**Rain barrels or cisterns** capture roof runoff, storing it for future non-drinking use.

**Pervious surfaces**, such as gravel, turf block, interlocking pavers, pervious asphalt and pervious concrete, can replace traditional, impervious asphalt and concrete. These allow water to infiltrate to an appropriate, underlying drainage layer, reducing local flooding due to rainwater runoff.

**Disconnected downspouts** direct roof runoff away from the foundations toward a landscaped area where plants and soils can absorb flows and filter pollutants.

**Raingardens** are landscaped areas that reduce runoff by absorbing and filtering rainwater.

*Some of these systems require technical guidance. Please consult with your local jurisdiction before installation. The rainwater capture systems pictured are examples only, and may not comply with local building codes as shown.*