Homeowners & Builders
Rainwater Guide

Meet the new requirements for stormwater management in a practical way.

1st Edition

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Introduction

Builders, designers and homeowners are faced with new regulations about stormwater and this book is meant to be a comprehensive guide explaining what it is and how to do it in an aesthetically pleasing way. Over the course of thousands of residential installations we have developed good looking systems sized for the roof area and landscape requirements. The regulations and suggestions are based on requirements as of January 2015 in the county of Los Angeles.

Check with your local building department for current requirements and your water agency for rebates and incentives.

The awareness of annual rainwater yield, our dire drought conditions and the environmental impact of a water hungry public and what it means for the economy and future are forcing change. The fact is that continued growth and building cannot happen without widespread adaption of rainwater harvesting and stormwater management designed to capture, irrigate, store, infiltrate as much water as possible.

The premise is to design the landscape around the water yield from the roof in an average year so the there is *no need for municiple water for the landscape* and to build into neighborhoods water capture and infiltration. Rainwater becomes the primary source of irrigation water for homes and simple grey water and condensation systems are the norm, not the fringe.

What Is This & Why Do I Have To Deal With It?

1. As of January 2015 in the county of Los Angeles requires compliance with LID and submittals of Stormwater Management Plans.

2. **How does the LID Ordinance affect my project?**

The LID ordinance requires rainwater from a three-quarter inch rainstorm to be captured, infiltrated and, or used, onsite at most developments and redevelopments where more than 500 square feet of hardscape is added. Most single family residences can comply in a more simple way by installing adequate BMPs such as rain barrels, permeable pavement, rainwater storage tanks, or infiltration swales to contain the water. See LID Handbook for more information about the BMPs.

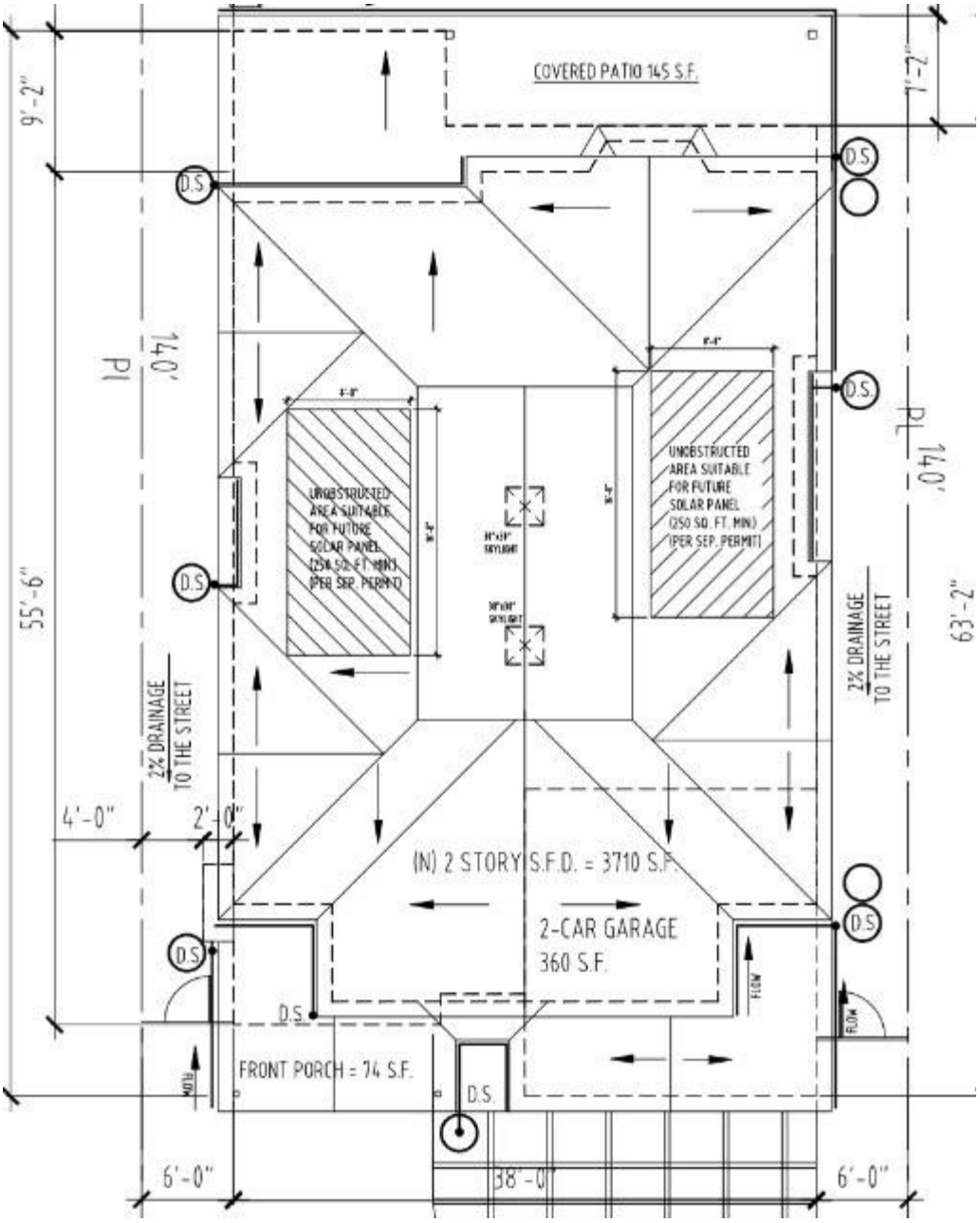
Link to ordinance: http://www.lastormwater.org/wp-content/files_mf/appxaordinances.pdf

3. Some cities are requiring a minimum of 200 gallons of rainwater storage to issue a remodel or new construction final.
4. Builders are now being issued directives to install systems sized for the roof area. Example a 2,000 square foot roof are may require 1,500 gallons in cisterns or rain barrels.

The problem we see is the that homeowners generally don't like a bunch of barrels and exterior plumbing to fill them all around their homes. Many times the plans we are seeing have requirements for a certain number of rain barrels that leaves no room for walkways or even calling for more barrels than the space will possibly fit.

The builders are forced to deal with mandates by folks who have never seen large scale systems or understand how they work. Rainwater harvesting is met with resistance from a population unaware of The Math and convinced that it does not rain enough.

In some cases other types of rainwater harvesting



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