

At Home Water Features

misting systems at the Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa, Chase Field and Valley restaurants, says the secret is to have misters shooting away from the patio. “Your cool zone will start immediately at the edge of the patio and you won’t have wet windows and furniture,” he says. You’ll need to locate your pump by power and water – usually near your A/C unit or pool equipment.

And for the do-it-yourselfers, Tutera offers classes that can save customers up to \$1,800 by showing you how to install a stainless steel misting system in four hours for \$3,100 or a plastic high-pressure hose system in one and a half hours for \$1,795.

Conservation

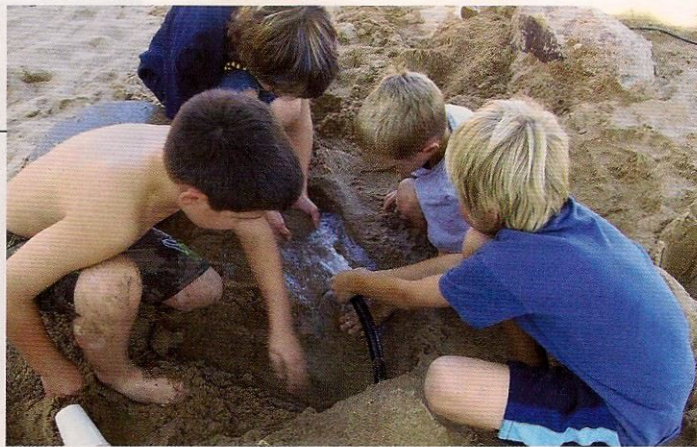
• **Rainwater harvesting.** While many of us think about water features in terms of enjoyment, others consider *satisfaction*. While adding a rainwater harvesting system to your yard may not be the most aesthetic step you’ll ever take, using rainwater instead of municipal water to care for your landscaping is satisfying.

A typical and inexpensive home rainwater catchment system diverts roof runoff water through a gutter system and into a

large barrel. A spigot at the bottom releases water, using the water’s own pressure for flow. “Once you’ve saved 50 to 80 gallons of water and used it to water your landscaping, you feel pretty good,” Holdeman says.

Holdeman does offer an underground storm drain system that he describes as basically a “catchment built of Legos.” This modular system is comprised of multiple, interlocking crates that can be placed underneath patios made of permeable pavers or other porous surfaces. Each crate holds 35 to 40 gallons of water.

Of course, once you get into storing that kind of water, circulating it becomes key. The cost for all of this infrastructure can approach \$5,000 to \$6,000. “We get 8 to 10 inches of rain here a year. So you ask, ‘Why would anyone spend that kind of money to do this?’ The environmental impact is huge,” Holdeman says.



“Kids want sand to be wet all the time.... With this, they can have the hose running all day long and it won’t matter because it re-circulates.”

— PAUL HOLDEMAN, OWNER OF THE POND GNOME

In the end, whether you want to relax, play or save water from a rainy day, Holdeman says there are limitless opportunities when it comes to home water features. “What’s available? There are very few limits anymore.”

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