



Public Utilities Board

Please address any correspondence to Water Department

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President, Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA)
President, Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES)
President, Association of Consulting Engineers, Singapore (ACES)
President, Real Estate Developers' Association of Singapore (REDAS)
President, Singapore Contractors Association Ltd (SCAL)

Dear Sir

COLLECTION OF RAINWATER

Water is a precious and limited resource in Singapore. About half of Singapore is utilized as water catchments. Rainwater that falls within the water catchments flows into the drains and is subsequently channeled into our reservoirs. There are three reasons why we disallow private collection of rain water in our water catchments:

- This large scale collection of rainwater into reservoirs is more economical than having many tanks to collect rainwater within our highly built up residential, commercial and industrial estates.
- Private collection of rainwater intercepts rainwater which would otherwise have been collected in our reservoirs. These reservoirs store water and, by regulating the uneven rainfall, provide the required buffer against droughts. Such a buffer would be less effective if rainwater on the catchment is intercepted and used by individual houses, ending up either in the sewers or lost through evaporation after watering the ground on dry days. In times of drought, the household rainwater tanks would of course be dry and our reservoirs would be less full than they could have been.
- Such intercepted water does not carry the water conservation tax imposed on water supplied by PUB and as such we can expect its use to be less restricted.

For these reasons, PUB does not allow the collection of rainwater within the water catchments. For areas outside water catchments, the collection of rainwater is permitted for a limited period or until such time when the areas are developed into water catchments. Proposals to collect rainwater should be submitted to Director, Drainage Department for approval.

2 We have been advising the professional engineers and architects of this during the pre-planning consultation meeting for their new developments where they will be informed whether their developments are within present or future water catchments if they propose water collection systems. We would appreciate it if you could disseminate this circular to your members and inform your members to consult PUB on their proposed collection of rainwater outside the water catchments during the pre-planning stage of the projects.

3 You may contact our engineers, Ms Angela Koh or Mr Tham Tuck Kuan at Tel No. 67313574 or 67313557 respectively if you require any clarification.

Yours faithfully



CHONG HOU CHUN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION)
for DIRECTOR
WATER DEPARTMENT