



Sonic Drive-In 3645 E. Fry Blvd., Sierra Vista, AZ



FEATURE: A dry delivery system (downspout directly to tank) from the west car covered parking area and a wet delivery system (downspout goes along the ground then up into the tank) from the east car covered parking system collected in a 3,000 gallon welded galvanized metal tank

When this Sonic Drive-In was remodeled, the owners like other community businesses, also wanted to preserve groundwater supplies by using rainwater instead of groundwater for irrigation. They contracted to have a 3,000 gallon welded galvanized steel tank (painted a beautiful blue color!) installed with an external pump so pressurized rainwater could water their landscape. The collection area catching the rain isn't very big at 600 square feet, but more downspouts can be directed to the tank. With the system Sonic has now, it is estimated that they can reduce their groundwater use by almost 5000 gallons each year.

System Statistics:

Harvested water use: Landscape irrigation around Sonic

Irrigation Delivery System: Pressurized with 1 hp external Grunfos pump to drip system

Annual rainfall: 14"

Collection area: Currently approx. 600 ft² (can be expanded by closing off other downspouts)

Roof material: Enamel coated sheet metal

Annual potential collection: 4,777 gallons

Present total collection capacity: 3,000 gallons

First wash: Yes. Basket strainer.

Roof Conveyance System: A dry delivery system from the west car covered parking area and a wet delivery system from the east car covered parking system

Container: 3,000 gallon welded galvanized steel – painted bright blue.

Auto fill: If rainwater is not sufficient, an auto fill using a motorized ball valve and a float switch inside the tank allows city water into the tank maintaining a minimum water level to supply irrigation water. There is an air-gap between the municipal water fill valve and the highest water level in the tank assures against cross-contamination of rainwater and municipal water.

Overflow: To the landscape.

Passive harvesting: Curb cuts allow street water into the landscape



This project was funded by the Walton Family Foundation through a grant from The Cochise Water Project. It was installed by Oasis Water Harvesting.



Fact sheet prepared by the University of Arizona Cochise County Cooperative Extension Water Wise Program

