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RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEM TO BE SHOWCASED ON PBS'S THIS OLD HOUSE

Rainwater harvesting system will enable outdoor water conservation through use of harvested rainwater in residential irrigation system

Austin, TX (March 5, 2007) -- PBS's This Old House will showcase the innovatively designed rainwater harvesting system of the Austin project house during the week of March 12-18th on your local PBS station. The system uses stored rainwater that is collected from the roof of the house to supply the landscape irrigation water through integration with the irrigation system. The episode will detail how the rainwater harvesting system functions and how it will conserve water and save the homeowners money. Check out www.thisoldhouse.com and search for Program #2624.

The rainwater harvesting system was designed and installed by Innovative Water Solutions (IWS), an Austin-based design-build firm of rainwater harvesting and graywater reuse systems. Rainwater harvesting offers many benefits to homeowners such as reduced water bills, water conservation strategies, and drainage solutions to stormwater runoff problems. Harvested rainwater can be collected in a simple rain barrel and used for small watering needs or it can be harvested in a more elaborate system which can be integrated with an irrigation systems. These more elaborate systems will allow homeowners to use the water more efficiently and will function without much homeowner oversight.

The system on the This Old House project collects all of the rainwater runoff from the house's roof into a 1,200 gallon galvanized metal cistern. The house has a footprint of approximately 1,500 sq. ft. which will produce 930 gallons of collected rainwater per inch of rainfall on the roof. The system is equipped with components that will help create a maintenance-free and worry-free system. These components include a first-flush diverter, a floating filter inside the cistern, an auto-fill mechanism connected to the municipal water line, a water level indicator, and a sprinkler pump that is connected to the irrigation system.

Rainwater harvesting is an ancient practice that is experiencing a revival in the green building movement. Rainwater harvesting systems present an untapped resource for huge water conservation gains for residential and commercial properties. Water conservation is becoming an increasingly important topic as the water demand in many area's of the U.S. is beginning to outstrip its' water supplies due to population growth, climate change, and other factors. Rainwater harvesting and graywater reuse are two strategies that provide solutions to regional water supply issues.

About Innovative Water Solutions, LLC:

IWS designs and installs rainwater harvesting and graywater reuse systems for residential and commercial customers. IWS also provides solutions for residential drainage problems. In addition, IWS produces rain barrels for sale from recycled food-grade barrels. IWS is a member of many professional organizations including the Austin Energy Green Building Program.

IWS owes its' beginning to the U.S. Peace Corps where its' owners Chris Maxwell-Gaines and Blake West originally met. It was their Peace Corps service in the rainforests of Suriname, South America and their reliance on rainwater harvesting systems for their daily water supply that gave them the experience and impetus to start a business that would help develop the practice of rainwater harvesting and "deep" water conservation in the U.S.

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