How much rain can you harvest in San Francisco?

Could it help prevent wildfire damage?



Let's look at the last 30 years of data for San Francisco to see what the driest and wettest years were. We might be surprised by what we find.

Most homes, even in arid environments, do not put their rainwater to productive use. They let it run off the property, straight out to the ocean.

There is an opportunity to integrate rainwater harvesting into the design of new homes in San Francisco.



The driest year in San Francisco in the last 30 years was:



163 mm

(6.41 inches)

The wettest year in San Francisco in the last 30 years was:



875 mm

(34.44 inches)

This translates to:

14,670 litres

(3,861 gallons) of harvest / 1000 sq. feet of roof in the driest year

78,750 litres

(20,724 gallons) of harvest / 1000 sq. feet of roof in the wettest year

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The average home size in San Francisco is:



1,256 sq. feet

This translates to:

18,425.52 litres

(4,849 gallons) in the driest year

98,910 litres

(26,029 gallons) in the wettest year

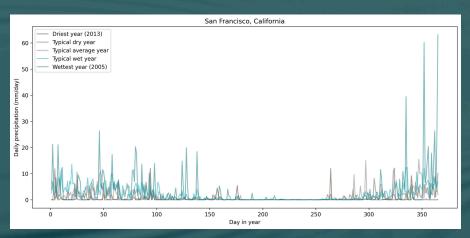


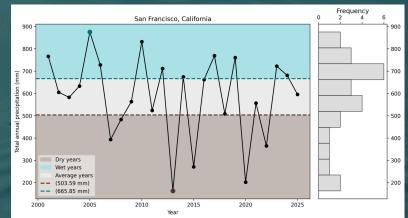
If we combined rainwater harvesting with a property-wide greywater reuse strategy, fire-resistant landscaping and fire-resistant building materials, we could bring the fire risk down substantially.

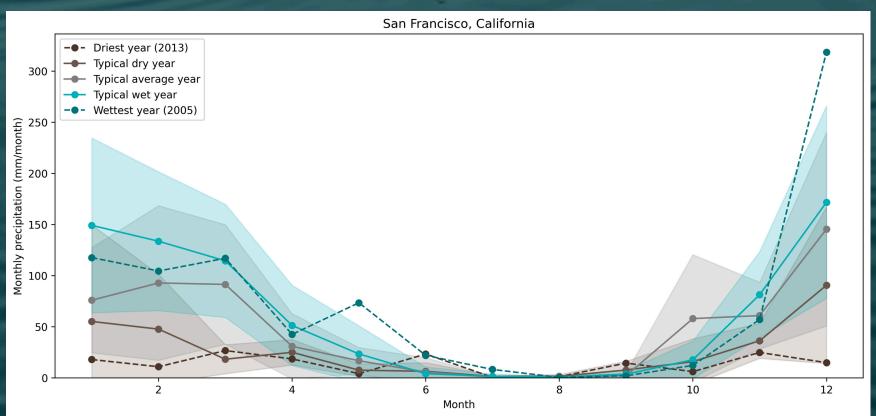
Greywater could be used to keep the fire-resistant landscape green and non-flammable year-round, and the rainwater could be stored for wildfire season as a backup measure.



Below are some charts the 5th World Data team put together to help understand the opportunity.









If you are in San Francisco and you are a building professional who wants to integrate these systems into your designs, please reach out at www.5thworld.com/contact/

