

**State of Oregon
Building Codes Division
Alternate Method Ruling No. OPSC 08-01**

**APPROVAL OF OPSC 08-01 – RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEMS FOR
RESIDENTIAL POTABLE USES AS A STATEWIDE ALTERNATE METHOD**

Statewide Alternate Methods are approved by the Division administrator in consultation with the appropriate advisory board. The advisory board's review is limited to the technical and scientific merits of the proposal. In addition:

- *building officials shall approve the use of any material, design or method of construction addressed in a statewide alternate method,*
- *the decision to use a statewide alternate method is at the discretion of the designer,*
- *statewide alternate methods do not limit the authority of the building official to consider other proposed alternate methods encompassing the same subject matter*

Initiated By: State of Oregon
Department of Consumer and Business Services
Building Codes Division
P.O. Box 14470
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REQUEST FOR RULING OPSC 08-01:

The division has approved Appendix M – Rainwater Harvesting Systems as an alternate material or method under ORS 455.060 for rainwater harvesting.

APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS:

This interpretive ruling is intended to allow a statewide alternate method of installation for plumbing systems which recycle rainwater. The rainwater harvesting provisions were approved by the board as part of the 2008 OPSC approval.

BACKGROUND:

The board considered it on March 2008. OPSC 08-01 was published in the 2008 OPSC, but was not adopted as part of the code. The provisions of the statewide alternate method was included in the code publication to provide guidance to local jurisdictions on rainwater recycling systems statewide. In order to ensure that rainwater recycling systems are consistently installed statewide this alternate method ruling is necessary.

DISCUSSION:

Rainwater recycling systems have been installed in the state as alternate methods under local approval. Previously, no consistent installation standard had been established for rainwater plumbing systems throughout the state. This ruling will provide a consistent standard for installation of rainwater harvesting on a statewide basis. OPSC 08-01 has been reviewed and

approved during the code change process by the Low-Rise Residential Structures Board and the Oregon State Plumbing Board.

FINDINGS:

The Low-Rise Residential Structures Board and Oregon State Plumbing Board reviewed and approved the following scientific and technical facts as they apply to OPSC 08-01 -- Rainwater Harvesting Systems:

- The statewide alternate method ruling OPSC 08-01 provisions address water uses which are both potable and non-potable water uses.
- The statewide alternate method ruling OPSC 08-01 provisions address rainwater roof collection and catchment areas in terms of materials and slopes.
- The statewide alternate method ruling OPSC 08-01 provisions address rain leader piping, first-flush diverter systems, storage tanks and pumps.
- The statewide alternate method ruling OPSC 08-01 provisions address water treatment and disinfection methods.

SCOPE OF RULING:

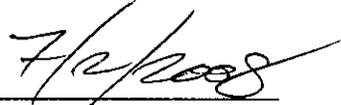
This ruling applies to all rainwater harvesting systems statewide as an alternate method to that addressed in the state building code.

CONCLUSION:

The technical and scientific findings of the Oregon Low-Rise Residential Structures Board and Oregon State Plumbing Board are accepted and the Alternate Method Interpretive Ruling No. OPSC 08-01 is approved.



Mark S. Long, Administrator
Building Codes Division



Date