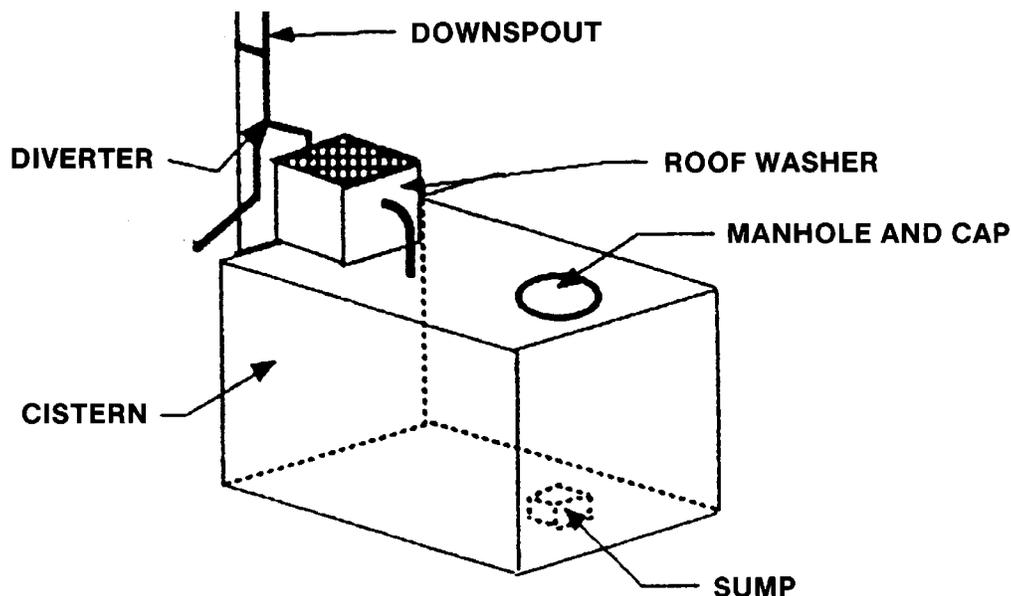


Choosing Cistern Material and Location

Once you have made the decision to build a cistern, you must decide what kind you want and where to put it. When deciding what type of material to use, consider how long the material will last and how much it costs. Plans can be obtained from your local county Extension Office. You can also buy a prefabricated cistern.



Materials:

- **Poured reinforced concrete**
 - The most expensive but has less problems.
 - Must be properly built using high quality materials and the plan must be followed closely.
 - The concrete walls will help lower water acidity.

- **Concrete block**
 - Less expensive than poured concrete.
 - Walls must be well reinforced, or they will crack and allow water to come into or go out of the cistern.
- **Fiberglass**
 - Less expensive than poured concrete or concrete block.
 - Walls or top may collapse when buried.
- **Metal**
 - Cheapest of all cisterns.
 - Has rust problems.
- **Plastic**
 - Also cheap with no rust problems.
 - Has a shorter life than concrete or metal.

Location:

- Most cisterns are located underground.
- The cistern needs to be in firm ground to avoid settling which can cause walls to crack.
- The area should be sloped so surface water drains away from the cistern.
- The cistern should be as far away from trees as possible because roots can crack cistern walls.
- The cistern needs to be near the house or buildings where the water is collected.

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