

GO GREEN IN THE GREEN VALLEY FAIRWAYS

I recently received a phone call from a member about installing a water-harvesting container, such as a cistern, to catch and hold rainwater for irrigation use. Her concern was that she and other “green minded” homeowners might be considered in violation of the CC&Rs.

Well, I’m here to tell you that there is nothing, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, in our CC&Rs that would prevent any of our homeowners from installing water-harvesting containers. Just one word of caution: be sure you keep mosquitoes from breeding in the water in the cistern.

“Going green” is purely optional for our members. You can follow all or part or even none of the following suggestions, but for those of you who are interested, here are some other “green” ideas, beginning with rainwater harvesting.

Install water-harvesting containers. Use that rainwater for irrigating your desert plants!

Install solar panels to utilize our amazing Arizona sunshine and lower your electric bill.

Plant drought-tolerant native plants in your garden. We live in the desert, land of cacti and other fascinating plants. Oh, and by the way, if you plant drought-tolerant plants, your water bill will probably go down. Now there’s incentive!

Wash clothes in cold water. Did you know that as much as 85 percent of the energy used to machine wash clothes goes to heating the water?

Use a clothesline to dry clothes. There is nothing, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, in the CC&Rs about not having and using a clothesline. Here’s what that CC&R really says in layman’s terms, not legalese:

“Property owners must keep large tools, woodpiles, clotheslines, and other such items in the back yard or in an area that is screened by plants, walls or fences, etc. so as not to offend the neighbors or passersby.”

(Off the record, I think people who get their bloomers in a twist at the sight of someone else’s bloomers blowin’ in the breeze have w-a-a-a-a-y too much time on their hands.)

Skip bottled water. Use a water filter to purify tap water and carry a reusable water bottle such as an aluminum bottle when you’re out walking or traveling.

Consider buying a recirculation pump. It can be set to come on and go off during the hours when you use a lot of hot water, and it’ll send hot water almost instantly to the far end of your house. No wasting water waiting for it to warm up. Call a local plumber for more information. Our president, **Len Defendorf**, installed one very easily and would be happy to share this information with anyone interested.

These are only a few of many suggestions I found on the Internet. If you have others, you can email or snail mail them to me for future articles.