



Cistern Care and Clean Water

Essential Information for Your Health

Clean, Protect, and Maintain Your Cistern to Help Ensure Safe Water



Clean

Clean your roof, gutters, diverters, screens, and filters

- Remove debris every 7 days or when visible

(note: diverters and flow restrictors minimize debris and sediment)

- Deep clean and disinfect cistern periodically by draining the cistern, removing sediment build-up, and scrubbing the inside



Protect

Inspect your whole system

- Weekly for debris and sediment build-up
- Monthly for structure cracks, wear, and tear on seals
- Measure the cistern water volume to treat accurately

Treat your cistern water prior to use

- There are many types of treatment: chlorination, UV, 3 stage treatment
- Manual chlorination with diluted bleach is a simple and effective treatment against bacteria and viruses
- Proper dosing, monitoring, and testing are critical to ensure the safety of your water



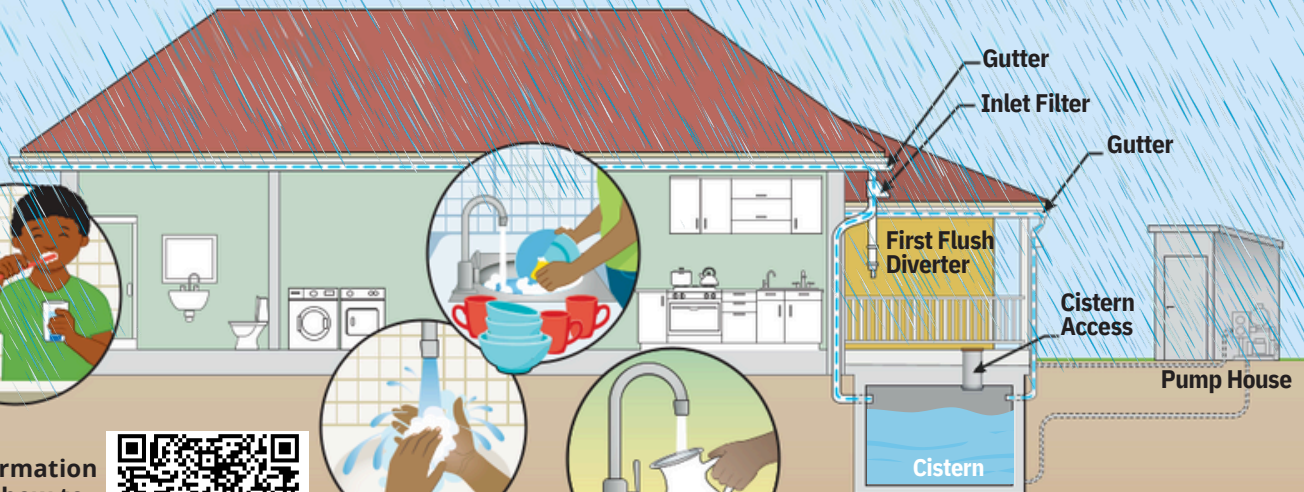
Maintain

Repair as soon as possible after each inspection

- Maintain a supply of unscented bleach, chlorine test tablets, litmus paper, and filters
- Sample and test your water quality
- Adjust treatment methods as necessary
- Maintain an emergency supply of clean water

People Consume and Come in Contact with Cistern Water in Many Ways

If your cistern water is contaminated, many of your daily activities may potentially expose you to harmful contaminants. Preventing contamination is essential to protecting your health.



For additional information and resources on how to clean, test, protect, and maintain your cistern water, please visit:



For more information contact:
Virgin Islands Department of
Planning and Natural Resources
340-773-1082