



WHAT DOES “POINT OF USE” MEAN ?

There are mainly three point of use situations, namely:

- ✓ Rainwater harvesting or storage
- ✓ Boreholes
- ✓ Household containers

Water can be used for various purposes at the house. This water can be contaminated through the incorrect storage of water, the use of contaminated storage facilities or the use of a contaminated source.

RAINWATER HARVESTING OR STORAGE

Rainwater harvesting means the accumulation of roof runoff water during the rainy season. Some areas in South Africa have saline groundwater as the only domestic water source. Therefore they rely on rainwater harvested from their roofs.

Rainwater that is accumulated and used for drinking purposes is the responsibility of the householder.

BOREHOLES

Groundwater is mainly abstracted by means of boreholes and hand pumps. Smaller communities in rural areas generally use groundwater. One or two boreholes can service small communities. Larger communities need a well field to supply sufficient water.

The management of the groundwater resource is the responsibility of the Department of Water and Sanitation. It is important to note that the protection of the resource is everybody's responsibility

HOUSEHOLD CONTAINERS

Household containers are used by the householder to transport and store the water, needed in the house, from the central standpipe or other water source, e.g. rivers, dams, boreholes. It is the objective of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry to supply standpipes for domestic water at least every 200m. Therefore the water user from rural areas or informal settlements is responsible to collect and carry their own household water from the standpipe to their homes.

The householder is solely responsible for these containers.