Bob Burgess, Gulf Islands Rainwater Connection Ltd.
www.rainwaterconnection.com
Box 3-3, Thetis Island, B.C.
V0R 2Y0

Rainwater Connection

- Harvesting Systems
- Design
- Installation
- Service

First Flush Diverter (FFD) Dripper End

The end of the FFD pipe is equipped with a dripper end that allows the pipe to empty within 24 hours, and be ready to catch the first flush of water from the next rain event.
A secondary plug end with many holes can be used during times when rainwater is not being collected. (ie during pollen season or when the tank is full.).

Adjusting the Dripper End Flow Rate

The dripper end is designed to control the rate at which the first flush diverter (FFD) empties. Too fast a drip rejects more water than required. Too slow a drip rate prevents the FFD from emptying within 24 hours, so that it is not ready to collect and reject the entire "first flush" from the next rain event.

The plug end is equipped with an irrigation nozzle that can be adjusted from full stop to steady flow. The rate of flow will depend on the vertical "head" of water in the first flush diverter pipe. This rate will diminish as the water level in the pipe drops. It will appear as a fine narrow spray.

To adjust the flow rate rotate the outer black adjustment ring. Turning it clockwise increases the flow. Turning it counter clockwise will reduce the flow.

<u>Alternative Operation Procedure:</u>
Some rainwater collectors prefer to leave their first flush diverter dripper ends closed most of the time, and manually empty the pipe once per week by removing the plug end and flushing the pipe empty.
This procedure is more common in winter when the roofs are cleaner, and the rains come more frequently. Care must be taken however, to open the dripper or plug end in freezing conditions.

Cleaning the Dripper End Internal Filter

The dripper end is equipped with a small plastic filter inside to prevent debris from affecting the flow through the nozzle. This filter can also become clogged with small particles. To help flush the filter, open the nozzle to full flow for about 10 seconds, and repeat once or twice.

If the filter becomes completely clogged it must be removed and cleaned.

NOTE: Before removing the filter, empty the FFD pipe to eliminate the water pressure.
To remove the filter turn the inner black ring, counter clockwise, and unscrew it completely. This reveals the end of the filter. Remove the small conical shaped plastic filter, and flush it out under a tap. Reassemble the filter and tighten the inner ring finger tight. There is no need to over tighten it, as a small leak here will not significantly affect overall performance.

Cleaning the First Flush Diverter End Plug

The dripper nozzle is mounted in a standard sewer drain end plug that is threaded into the end of the FFD pipe. From time to time it is recommended to remove the end plug to clean out accumulated debris.
NOTE: The threads of this end plug should not drip continuously or it will affect the overall water emptying rate. If required, remove the plug end and re-wrap the threads with 2-3 rounds of Teflon tape and retighten the plug end gently with the adjustable wrench.

For further information please contact;

Bob Burgess
Gulf Islands Rainwater Connection Ltd.
bob@rainwaterconnection.com
(250) 246-2155