

RESTRICTIONS ON RAIN BARREL USE

- Water collected from rain barrels is **not** suitable for human or pet consumption.
- Due to lack of research data, water collected in a rain barrel is not recommended for watering fruit or vegetable gardens, unless using soaker hoses.
- The water flow (and pressure) will be less than from your outdoor spigot, making sprinklers ineffective. Plan to use soaker hoses, handheld spray nozzles and/or watering cans. Elevating your rain barrel on a sturdy platform will increase the flow.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT RAIN BARRELS

- Rainwater can actually help improve the health of your gardens, lawn and trees. Rainwater is naturally “soft” and devoid of minerals, chlorine and other chemicals found in city water.
- During a one-inch rain event 0.6 gallons of water will fall on a square foot of roof and 54 gallons will fall on 90 square feet of roof-- enough to fill a 55 gallon rain barrel. To collect twice this volume from the same down spout, connect the overflow hose from the first rain barrel to a second rain barrel.
- A plastic rain barrel may be painted any color you wish. Use spray paint specially formulated to bond well to plastic surfaces.
- Rain barrels can be purchased at a cost between \$50-\$150. Or, you can reduce your costs considerably by making your own.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

We have some great information about stormwater on our website:

www.allenswcd.com

We also have our rain barrel calculator available on the website so you can determine how many barrels you need to capture the water from the roof of your home or business.

There are many places to purchase rain barrels locally. Check our website to see if you live in a rebate eligible area.



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RAIN BARRELS



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Have you ever watched a river of rainwater run down your driveway into the storm sewer or road ditch? Or even worse, seep into your basement? Collecting roof runoff in rain barrels is a good solution to these problems and it also helps reduce pollution in local streams and conserve water resources. Although rain barrels have been around for thousands of years, people are now encouraged more than ever to use them as a way to protect our streams and rivers while saving money on water bills.



HOW DO I MAINTAIN THE RAIN BARREL?

During the spring and summer months routinely inspect your rain barrel. Remove any debris that has accumulated on the lid that might block the screen mesh. You should also routinely clean the inside of your rain barrel. During the winter months, remember to take your barrel out of operation. Simply turn it upside down or store it inside and redirect the downspout away from the foundation.

BENEFITS OF USING RAIN BARRELS

- The average American household uses 30% of its total water for outdoor applications.
- Rain barrels provide an alternative to tap water for watering lawns, shrubs and flower gardens.
- They will help reduce peak volume and velocity of stormwater runoff reaching streams and rivers.
- They will help reduce peak water demands during the summer months.
- Using a rain barrel can also reduce your water and electric utility bills.

WHAT IS A RAIN BARREL?

A rain barrel is any type of container used to catch water flowing from a downspout. Rain barrels reduce the amount of stormwater runoff by collecting roof runoff and storing the rainwater for future use.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The rain barrel is placed underneath a shortened downspout, diverting the roof runoff into the rain barrel. Placing the rain barrel on a **STURDY** platform will allow for more clearance under the spigot, and it will also increase the rate of flow if you are attaching a hose to the barrel's spigot.

Important features to consider when buying or making a rain barrel.

