

Rain Barrel Fact Sheet



Rainwater harvesting is an effective, ecological and economical method for the conservation and protection of this precious natural resource. By catching, storing and re-directing your roof water for on-site usage you can take advantage of this free source of water for use in your yard and garden. All this while also contributing to a reduction in storm water runoff pollution—which is a form of pollution coming from impervious surfaces that run into nearby creeks and water ways. Storm water runoff often gains momentum as it rushes along the ground, giving it the ability to pick up pollutants and contribute to erosion.

For every inch of rain that falls on a 1,000 square foot roof, you can collect approximately 600 gallons of rainwater. To calculate the approximate amount of runoff from your rooftop, simply multiply the square footage of your roof by 625 and divide by 1000. If you find that your rain barrel is not collecting enough water for your needs or is constantly overflowing, multiple rain barrels can be connected very easily. In addition to reducing pollution on residential landscapes, rain barrels can save you money by reducing watering costs in the warm and dry summer months.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Will I get mosquitoes in my rain barrel?

The rain barrels are capped with fiberglass screen that allows water in, but keeps mosquitoes from getting into the barrel to lay their eggs. If you believe that there are mosquitoes breeding within your rain barrel, dump all the water out, this will kill all present larva.

Is the water in the rain barrel safe to use in my vegetable garden?

Generally water collected in rain barrels are safe to use for this purpose. Rain barrels that collect water from copper roofs or from roofs where wooden shingles or shakes that have been treated with CCA (chromated copper arsenate) to prevent moss or algae growth should not be used on edible plants. Additionally, if you have treated your roof with chemicals or installed zinc strips to prevent moss or algae growth, you should also not use the water in your rain barrel in your vegetable garden. No matter what you decide, make sure to wash all your garden produce thoroughly before you eat it!

There are numerous benefits when utilizing rain barrels:

Reduce flooding in yard or your basement. By collecting the water and using it for watering plants

“Preservation and protection for future generations.”



Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation

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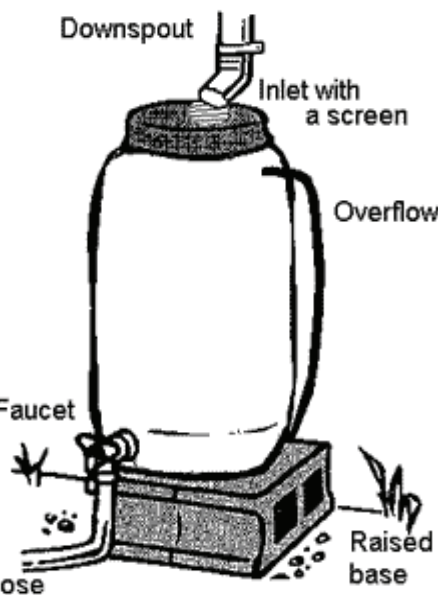
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Provide your plants with water they need! Unlike treated water, which is "softened" with dissolved minerals, rain water is naturally soft. The water stored in your rain barrel is better than municipal water for washing your car and watering indoor or outdoor plants.

Save money and water! Instead of water from the tap or faucet, you can use the water you've saved to keep your home landscape happy and growing. You'll also reduce your municipal water bill!

Helping to protect and sustain the integrity of the Little Beaver Creek (and in turn, the Ohio River)! The Little Beaver Creek is an exceptional small mouth bass fishery and also has the largest population of the endangered Hellbender salamander in Ohio. Additionally, the Little Beaver Creek is designated as a Wild and Scenic River and has a portion of the watershed designated as an Important Bird Area through the Audubon Bird Society. By harvesting rain water, residents help improve the quality of our water by slowing the flow of storm water, or the water that runs off of pavement and rooftops when it rains. Storm water is a leading source of pollution, it picks up pollutants as it flows across our paved surfaces and fast-moving water causes erosion of creek beds and banks.

www.cityofbremerton.com/content/sw_makeyourrainbarrel.html



By storing and retaining storm water, rain barrels limit polluted storm water from flowing into streams and further causing erosion that contributes to sediment and nutrient pollution in the Little Beaver Creek.

Basic Instructions for Constructing Rain Barrels:

-55-gallon food grade quality recycled barrel.

-Install an overflow at the top. This is an important feature. A full barrel has the potential to spill additional water over the top and may cause localized erosion.

-Consider attaching the overflow to the downspout with a valve. Simply turn the valve off when the barrel is full and redirecting the runoff back into the downspout.

-As an alternative to the spigot on the diagram, purchase a spigot with a threaded nipple and simply twist it into the 1" hole.

For more detailed instructions, go to: <http://www.townofcary.org/depts/pwdept/water/waterconservation/rainbarrelinstructions.pdf>

Additional information obtained from:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/DEPARTMENTS/EnvironmentalServices/epo/EnvironmentalServicesEpoRainBarrel.aspx>

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/rainbarrels.htm>

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/newsletter/rbworkshops.htm>



www.lilgreenhouse.com/index.php?cPath=24