

Rain Barrels



The Connection Between Storm Water and Rain Barrels

Rainwater that falls on the ground is used by plants or filtered through layers of soil. As it is cleaned by the soil, it recharges ground water and sustains even flows into streams and rivers. But rain that falls on roads, parking lots and roofs cannot make its way through the pavement and into the soil. Instead, this water collects pollutants that might be lying around, such as fertilizers, pet waste, or sediment. It then runs into our storm sewers and out into creeks and streams without being treated. Rain barrels help ease some of these problems. They catch rainwater before it becomes polluted and runs into the storm drain.

The Benefits of a Rain Barrel

Rain barrels have a number of benefits including:

- Save water for dry spells
- Provide warm, clean unchlorinated water for flowering plants
- Reduce runoff and help prevent stormwater pollution
- Help prevent flooding

In fact, catching rainwater flowing from eaves or downspouts is one of the simplest, cheapest ways to conserve water and prevent it from entering the sewer system!



A Few Words About Rain Barrels

Size: Rain barrels vary in size from 20-150 gallons. If you need additional capacity, barrels can be linked together.

Material: Rain barrels can be made from wood or heavy plastic. Garbage cans also work, but need to be the sturdy type from heavy plastic.

Cost: Rain barrels can cost between \$60 and \$250 (plus shipping) when purchased online or at a garden supply store. Cost will depend on size, style and additional features such as extra spigots.

Looking For a Barrel?

If you would like to purchase a rain barrel, you can find them locally at Home Depot, Lowes, Ace Hardware, and Alsip Nursery. You can also purchase online from www.cleanairgardening.com. You can also build your own rain barrel. A Google search on "How to build a rain barrel" will provide many sites with step-by-step instructions.

To get in the Water Zone you should . . .

- Know how to use your automated sprinkling system control box
- Talk to a lawn care professional to determine the most efficient method to care for your lawn
- Utilize water conservation methods (also available at www.mokena.org)

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