RAIN BARRELS

What is a rain barrel?



A rain barrel is a setup designed to gather and retain rainwater from your roof, preventing it from being wasted as runoff and directed to storm drains and streams.

Constructing a rain barrel is a straightforward and cost-effective process. It can be positioned near your house to link up with any residential gutter and downspout.

The collected rainwater serves various purposes like car washing, lawn and garden irrigation, and other outdoor activities, helping to conserve water from your household utilities.

What are the benefits?

Rain barrels help decrease stormwater runoff and offer a cost-effective, eco-friendly water source for gardens and yards. They aid in minimizing ponding, flooding, and cutting down on water expenses by using less tap water.

Where can a rain barrel be purchased?

The City of Delaware offers rain barrels and a diverter kit at a reduced cost to City of Delaware residents. The ***limit*** is 2 per household.

Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District also sells rain barrels. See the website at: ***soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us***

Rain barrels can also be purchased online or from hardware and garden supply stores.



Restrictions and Considerations

Water collected in the rain barrel should not be consumed by humans or pets.

Water flows at less pressure than your outdoor spigot.

Rain water from your roof can contain air pollution deposits, bird droppings, and byproducts from asphalt shingles. Consider applying the water to the soil around your plants rather than on the edible portion of the plants.



This flyer assists the City in meeting Minimum Control Measure (MCM) 1 as part of the MS4 NPDES stormwater permit issued by the Ohio EPA.

SOLUTIONS FOR STORMWATER POLLUTION

Many of our surfaces are impervious, meaning they are non-porous. Rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, and roadways can produce substantial runoff during rainstorms. This runoff from impervious surfaces flows directly into storm drains that lead to streams and rivers. Without filtration and treatment, the runoff collects pollutants like pesticides, vehicle fluids, fertilizers, silt, debris, and pet waste containing E.coli bacteria. The high volume of stormwater runoff can overwhelm streams, leading to erosion of streambanks. This poses a threat to the ecosystem, causing habitat damage, property issues, and resulting in murky water that can harm aquatic life.

To address these problems, installing a rain barrel helps retain and release water at a controlled rate, effectively reducing and managing runoff that contributes to various stormwater pollution concerns.

Helpful Tips

- Choose a good location for your rain barrel, ideally near a downspout to easily collect rainwater.
- Make sure the rain barrel is on a stable and elevated surface to increase water pressure when you use it.
- Keep the lid securely closed to prevent debris, insects, and animals from getting into the water.
- Regularly clean the rain barrel to prevent algae growth and ensure the water stays clean.
- Consider installing a diverter kit to direct excess water away from the rain barrel during heavy rainfalls.

For additional resources or questions, contact:

Lisa Roberts
City of Delaware
Watershed and Sustainability Coordinator
lroberts@cityofdelawareoh.gov
740-203-1905

Frequently Asked Questions

How much money can I save by using a rain barrel?

- By using a rain barrel, you can save a significant amount of water. On average, a rain barrel can collect around 50 gallons of water during a 1-inch rainfall. This means that depending on the amount of rainfall your area receives, you can potentially save hundreds of gallons of water each year by using a rain barrel.

How can I prevent my rain barrel from overflowing?

- To prevent a rain barrel from overflowing, there are several strategies you can try. One common method is to install an overflow outlet near the top of the barrel that diverts excess water away once the barrel is full. Another option is to connect a hose to the overflow outlet and direct the water to a garden or a drainage area. Additionally, you can install a diverter kit that automatically redirects water once the barrel is full. Regularly monitoring the water level in the rain barrel and using the stored water for gardening or other purposes can also help prevent overflow.