

When rain falls and snow melts, the runoff produced picks up a variety of contaminants such as oil, metals, salts, pet waste, fertilizer, and grass clippings as it flows over roofs, roadways, sidewalks and lawns.

Stormwater runoff ultimately flows into storm drains.

Remember: storm drains lead directly to our local rivers and streams.

WHAT IS A RAIN BARREL?

A rain barrel is a device that collects rain water from your roof and stores it. It is placed under a downspout, with water from the downspout filling it up during a rain event. A nozzle near the bottom lets you access water when it is needed. Rain barrels can be purchased, or made at home using items found at a hardware store. The stored water can be used to water your garden or lawn.

HOW RAIN BARRELS HELP YOUR HOUSE AND YARD:

- Save water
- Reduce pollution by reducing stormwater runoff
- Prevent wet spots near rain gutter outlets
- Provide water without chlorine, lime, or calcium which is great for gardens and lawns



WHAT ABOUT MOSQUITOES?

Having a screen over your rain barrel will prevent mosquitoes from getting in and laying eggs. You can also buy a mosquito control tablet with BTI, a naturally-occurring bacteria that targets mosquito larvae. BTI is harmless to plants, animals, and people.



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