



Rain Barrels

When it rains, water from roofs, driveways, sidewalks, and roads is directed to storm drain inlets and may travel, depending upon the engineering of the system, unfiltered and untreated, to the nearest stream or river. This “runoff” often contains pesticides, excess nutrients from fertilizers and pet waste, litter, and fluids from leaking cars. The runoff itself is a problem because all that extra water being directed to waterways not naturally formed to carry it causes bank erosion. Erosion causes muddiness or “sedimentation” in the stream which harms wildlife and can cause homeowners to lose land along an eroded stream. Homeowners, renters, and land managers can promote “infiltration” - rain water soaking into the ground where it doesn’t cause erosion and can restore groundwater supplies - by installing rain gardens and rain barrels. Rain barrels store water that runs off your roof that would normally be directed to the street and storm drain inlet. The stored rainwater can then be used to water the lawn or a garden.

Things to remember when using a rain barrel:

- Inlet must be covered by a mesh screen to prevent debris and mosquitoes from entering the rain barrel.
- Overflow must be directed away from the house foundation or back into the downspout outlet pipe.
- Downspout diverters can be automatic or manual to allow switching from rain barrel to downspout when the barrel is full. Automatic diverters are recommended.
- Rain water is free!

Disconnecting downspouts is not allowed in some municipalities. A downspout diverter that allows overflow from the rain barrel to continue to flow into the downspout or placing the overflow hose into the discharge pipe is recommended in those areas.



For more information or questions, contact the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District at 740-368-1921.



Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District
Helping You Help the Land



Rain Barrel Distributors

A. M. Leonard – www.gardenersedge.com

Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District – 60 gallon barrels
www.delawareswcd.org (740) 368-1921, 557-A Sunbury Rd, Delaware, Ohio 43015

FLOW (Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed) – (occasionally have workshops for residents with cost-share on rain barrels, funding permitting) www.olentangywatershed.org

Gardeners' Supply Plastic Rain Barrels – Plastic and Oak Rain Barrels; downspout diverter kits; rain barrel linking kits www.gardeners.com; 1-888-833-1412

Generation Green – 6734 Sawmill Rd. (corner of 161 & Sawmill) (614) 761-2222
www.generationgreenstore.com

Green Way Supply – 60 gallon plastic barrel and 75-gallon terra cotta barrel; 620 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN 46204 gblack@greenwaysupply.net 317-822-8505

Home Depot – www.homedepot.com select between a variety of barrels

Kentucky Whiskey Barrels – Solid White Oak Rain Barrels; prices vary by style
www.kentuckybarrels.com/RainBarrels.html (606) 346-0887

Oakland Nurseries – 25 Kilbourne Road, Delaware, Ohio 43015, 740-369-5454

Paver Stone Design Group – Sells and installs rain barrels, permeable pavers, and underground water harvesting tanks. 9878 Brewster Lane #117, Powell, Ohio 43065, 614-447-2837 www.paverstonedesigngroup.com

Rain Barrels and More – Plastic rain barrels and white oak rain barrels (shipping is included in their prices) www.rainbarrelsandmore.com 877-888-5609

Rain Brothers – Plastic rain barrels, tanks, cisterns, sustainable irrigation
503 W. Walnut Street, Columbus, OH 43214 (614) 424-0572 www.rainbrothers.com

Walmart – www.walmart.com 55 gallon sand-stone- barrel, 67 and 70 gallon spruce wood barrels