

Rain Barrels

By collecting rainwater from rooftops before it reaches the sewer system, the capacity of the city sewer system is increased. Rain barrels are designed to temporarily store rainwater runoff from rooftops. The runoff into rivers and streams, and eventually drinking sources can be reduced with the use of rain barrels. Less runoff results in a higher quality of water in rivers and streams.

A rain barrel is a 55 gallon drum that is connected directly to a downspout. Water is collected in the drum to be saved for later use. Water from a rain barrel can be used to water lawns and gardens and wash cars. A rain barrel must be emptied before the next storm to ensure the barrel functions properly.



Wooden Rain Barrel



Rain barrels can be wooden or plastic. This plastic, 55 gallon drum rain barrel is located at the Fair Hill Nature Center.

Where To Get Help for rain barrel information

- Building a Rain Barrel: http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/WaterConservation/Documents/www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/water_cons/rainbarrel.pdf
- Maryland Department of the Environment's Building a Rain Barrel; http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/water/waterconservation/documents/www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/water_cons/rainbarrel.pdf
- Rain Barrel Construction http://www.ecoexpress.org/video_detail.php?videoId=164¬es=1,1,1,1