

What is a Rain Barrel?

A rain barrel is a container that collects water from the roof as it flows through a downspout. This rain water would otherwise be lost as runoff, enter a storm or combined sewer or be diverted to your yard. Rain barrels help to keep rain water out of combined and storm sewers and ditches. Why is this important? Often runoff carries pollutants that it picks up along the way. This is the leading source of water pollution in the nation today. The most common pollutants originate in our own yards. They include pet waste, sediment, fertilizers, automotive fluids and pesticides. Rain barrels are an easy, practical way to control excess storm water and reduce the negative effects of pollution. Having a rain barrel helps to conserve our most precious resource...water!

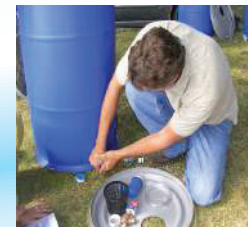
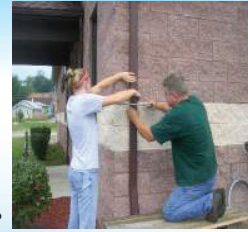


Benefits of Rain Barrels

- Reduce combined sewer overflow
- Conserve precious water
- Prevent non-point source pollution
- Improve storm water quality
- Prevent erosion
- Improve groundwater quality
- Prevent flooding
- Attractive landscape feature
- Save on water bills
- Provide mineral-rich water for plants

Installing your Rain Barrel

- Use only clean, food-grade barrels!
- Place barrel on a platform of wood, bricks, or cinder blocks, at least 6-8" in height.
- Make sure the platform is sturdy because a full rain barrel may weigh up to 500 lbs.
- Place the barrel next to the downspout on top of the platform, mark and cut the downspout for access into the barrel.
- If your lid is solid, you will need to drill a hole in the top.
- Choose an adaptor or a flexible "snake" to attach the downspout to the opening in the top of the barrel.
- Creating a "closed system" with a mesh screen or basket will keep animals and birds from falling in, and keep mosquitos from breeding.
- Measure at least 2 inches from the bottom of the barrel and drill the spigot hole.
- Install a pre-threaded PVC bushing and apply silicone to the outer threaded portion of the bushing and the outer threaded portion of the faucet.
- Insert the faucet into the bushing.



- You can connect your spigot to a hose for watering your garden



- You can connect your barrels for more storage.



- Create an artistic barrel. Cover with two cans of spray paint, then use your own designs on the surface.



Care and Maintenance

Don't forget to winterize your barrel. Empty and clean it out before the first frost. Store upside down, in your garage, basement or outside. Reconnect your downspouts during the winter months!



**Akron Waterways
Renewed!**

This rain barrel program is a partnership between the Summit Soil & Water Conservation District and the City of Akron as part of the Akron Waterways Renewed! program.

Our Mission:

To invest in Akron's environmental future by building infrastructure for the next century that will protect public health and maintain water of the highest quality in the most cost-effective manner and providing local jobs.

Our Vision:

Akron, Ohio will be recognized as a community that has used the Integrated Planning approach in re-building its infrastructure to meet all of its needs with more affordable benefits that are achieved earlier. We can provide effective and efficient wastewater and storm water management services while protecting the environment for this and future generations.

Learn more at
www.akronwaterwaysrenewed.com.

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Rain Barrel Facts



Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer.



Roof drainage from a 1,000 square foot roof will amount to 562 gallons in a one-inch rain fall.

Rain barrels are suitable for residential, commercial, and industrial sites.

Our Mission: To provide local leadership and technical assistance for innovative programs to conserve soil, improve water quality and enhance the natural resources of Summit County.



**SUMMIT
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CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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We are an Equal Opportunity
Employer and Provider

Akron Rain Barrel Program



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