

## Why Use Rain Barrels?

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Residential water use increases 40 to 50 percent during summer months due to outdoor water use. Storm water runoff is the leading type of residential non-point source pollution.

- A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from rooftops to use later for lawn and garden watering
- Water collected in a rain barrel would normally pour off your roof directly or flow through roof gutter downspouts and become storm water runoff
- Depending on your yard, this runoff can travel onto hard surfaces and eventually into a storm drain, a stream reach or directly into the Severn River or Lake Ogleton

## What Do Rain Barrels Do For You?

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A rain barrel can be used to save water for plants during dry periods. Rain barrels can also be arranged to slowly release the collected rain fall to areas that can soak up the water, reducing storm water runoff and increasing groundwater recharge.

- Rain barrels conserve water and help save your well (a rain barrel can save approximately 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months)
- Rain barrels reduce water pollution by reducing storm water runoff, which can contain pollutants like sediment, oil, grease, bacteria and nutrients



## What's The Bottom Line?

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Rain barrels are inexpensive and easy to buy or build and install. You may order rain barrels from the Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center at [www.arlingtonecho.net](http://www.arlingtonecho.net). Also, many local stores and garden shops carry rain barrels in a variety of styles to fit with your architecture and personal tastes.

***Slow it down . . . Spread it out . . . Soak it in . . .***