



# Phase II Storm Water Program

Spring 2020

## Rain Barrels

### ***DIY Craft for Home***

A rain barrel is a collection system that is designed to harvest rain water from the rooftops of homes or other buildings. Water falls from the roof into a barrel or other large container to be used at a later time. Rain barrels are typically raised above ground level by the use of blocks to allow a valve to be placed at the bottom of the barrel for easy access to the water supply. A rain barrel can be a simple project to create at home and can be expanded to become a more advanced water collection system if needed.

### ***Impacts of Rain Barrels***

By having a rain barrel you can harvest rain water runoff and reduce the amount of water that flows from your property. The collected water can be stored for long periods of time and can be used during times of drought. There are numerous benefits to having a rain barrel system, such as reduced irrigation cost, having a natural water source, and reduced storm water runoff. Rain barrel water is not safe to drink, but it is a source of chlorine free water that is beneficial to plants. For every inch of rain that falls on 1000 square feet of catchment area you can expect to collect 600 gallons of water.

### ***Getting Started***

A basic rain barrel can be made at very little expense with easy to find items. All you need is a water storage container and a device, such as a gutter, to move rain water from the roof and into the container. In addition, blocks to raise the container from the ground, a bung to place a valve, and a mosquito covering are all simple ways to improve your rain barrel. For more information on how to construct your own rain barrel visit [epa.gov](http://epa.gov).

