

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Will my rain barrel attract mosquitoes?** NO! This type of rain barrel is a closed water system, there is no standing water where mosquitoes can breed.
2. **Can I add a second (or third...) barrel to the same system?** YES! Make a hole in each rain barrel, thread each with a pipe tap, wrap hose ends with Teflon tape and connect the barrels with a small hose.
3. **Can I paint my barrel?** YES! There are several paint types that adhere to plastic. Ask at your local hardware store.
4. **Can I drink the water from my rain barrel?** NO! Water that enters your rain barrel runs off your roof and down your downspout, making it unsafe for humans or animals to drink.
5. **Can I put a rain barrel on my house or garage?** Check with your local city hall about rain barrel placement and restrictions. Let them know you are diverting the rainwater, not disconnecting your downspout.

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District sells rain barrels at workshops held across Cuyahoga County.

Check our website for dates.
www.cuyahogaswcd.org

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RAIN BARRELS FOR YOUR HOME



cuyahoga
SOIL & WATER
conservation district

WHY HARVEST RAINWATER?

What is a Rain Barrel?

- A rain barrel is a container used to collect and store rainwater that would otherwise be lost to runoff and likely diverted to a storm drain. Collected water may then be used to water lawns and gardens. Rainwater can be harvested in many ways.

Why use a Rain Barrel?

- **Water Conservation** - Approximately 60% of our municipal water supply goes directly to watering our lawns. By using rain barrels, you lessen the amount of water flowing into our storm drains, sewer systems and ultimately local waterways. This free source of water can then be used during hot or dry spells to water your garden.
- **Protection of Local Watersheds** - 70 million pounds of pesticides are applied to lawns each year, contaminating stormwater (rainwater) runoff. Fertilizers and pesticides are the primary source of water pollution. By collecting rainwater, you prevent that runoff from picking up and carrying these harmful pollutants into our local waterways.
- **Natural Gardening** - Using rainwater to water your garden is natural and healthy. Plants and beneficial microbes like rainwater because it is naturally soft - free of chlorine, fluoride and other chemicals in tap water. Warm water is also less shocking to plants than cold water.

Where can I get a Rain Barrel?

- **Attend a workshop** - Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District hosts workshops as well as our local partner agencies. Visit our website for more information. www.cuyahogawcd.org
- **Purchase a Rain Barrel** - Your local hardware store may sell rain barrels and they may also be found online. Research which system works best for you.

Up to 60% of summer water use is irrigation. Reduce your household water needs by saving rain.

You can collect an average of 2,100 gallons of rain per month during the spring and summer!

