

Rain Barrels & Other Ways to Save Water

When we think of our stormwater as a precious fresh water resource, it doesn't make sense to manage it like a waste product. There is a finite amount of fresh water on earth and we can all take steps to protect it, starting with collecting it where it falls!

When we catch and keep the rainwater that falls on our yards, we reduce flooding and stress on the Village sewer system infrastructure, keep pollutants out of our rivers and streams, and end up with a bunch of clean water that is perfect for watering lawns and gardens, washing cars or the family dog, and offsetting household water usage in many other ways.



Rain Barrels

One simple, efficient, low-cost method to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff from your property is to use **rain barrels**. Estimates indicate that a quarter-inch of rain falling on an average home yields over 200 gallons of water. **Rain barrels are simply large containers that capture stormwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost as runoff.** Modern rain barrels are sealed, safe around children and insect resistant – they can even be painted or decorated to your liking. You can divert water from your downspout to fill your rain barrel and a hose spigot on the front makes the water easy to access and use.



Around 40% of total household water used during the summer months is for watering lawns and gardens. Rainwater doesn't contain chlorine, lime or calcium which makes it ideal for watering your flowers and vegetable garden or washing your car or windows. You may notice a decrease in your water bill! Even if you don't have an intended use for the water, emptying the rain barrel after a storm reduces the rate and volume of stormwater the sewer system and our rivers and streams have to manage at a peak time.

The Village of Bloomingdale has partnered with The DuPage Conservation Foundation to offer rain barrels to Village of Bloomingdale residents through a partnership with Upcycle Products, Inc. The 55-gallon rain barrels being offered for sale are made of recycled food-grade plastic, come in a variety of colors and can be purchased online for \$60 (plus tax) by clicking on the following link: <http://www.upcycle-products.com/bloomingdaleil.html>

Barrels will be shipped to Village Hall and available for pick-up beginning Friday, July 12.