

How does a rain barrel work?

Rain water enters the barrel by gravity and gutters. It comes out a spigot at the bottom only forced by gravity. The spigot can be connected to a hose for watering your plants or can be used to fill up watering cans. You can also attach a small tube to another rain barrel to save even more water during heavy rains.

Rain Barrel Benefits

Did you know?

- If you have an average of 20 inches of rain per year you could save 24,000 gallons of rainwater from going into the storm sewers by using a rain barrel. Annually, in Minneapolis, it rains 30.64 inches!
- Did you know that rainwater is better for plants and soil than hose water
- In an average rainstorm usually there's enough water to fill up 3 rain barrels.

Check out this long list of reasons why we should use rain barrels.

- Rain barrels help save drinking water.
- Rain barrels make rainwater more accessible for watering plants by storing water away for use on your garden on non-rainy days and providing extra water when in a drought.
- Rain barrels can help direct water into different areas where you need it most and provide water to areas that are hard to get your hose to.
- Rain barrels help protect streams and lakes from polluting.
- By using a rain barrel, you provide a better habitat for birds, butterflies and other insects
- Rain barrels help prevent flooding
- They reduce erosion and increases water quality.
- They reduce global warming.
- They prevent animals from getting sick from polluted stormwater.
- They also prevent people getting sick from polluted water getting into their gardens.
- By using a rain barrel, you can reduce your water bill. Every inch of rain that falls on a 1000 square foot catchment area saves 600 gallons of water!

Information taken from:

"How Much Water Can You Collect in Rain Barrels During a Rainfall." *Rain Barrel Guide RSS*. N.p., 20 Apr. 2010. Web. 26 Apr. 2016.

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. N.p.: Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, 2011. *Rain Barrels More than a Drop in the Bucket for Conservation*. Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. Web. 26 Apr. 2016.

<http://www.rwmwd.org/vertical/Sites/%7BAB493DE7-F6CB-4A58-AFE0-56D80D38CD24%7D/uploads/8x11_Metrowide_web11.pdf>.