



# CRWC

CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL



# A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO RAIN BARRELS

When rain falls and snow melts, the runoff produced picks up a variety of contaminants such as oil, metals, salts, pet waste, fertilizer, and grass clippings as it flows over roofs, roadways, sidewalks and lawns.

Stormwater runoff ultimately flows into storm drains.

**Remember: storm drains lead directly to our local rivers and streams.**

## WHAT IS A RAIN BARREL?

A rain barrel is a device that collects rain water from your roof and stores it. It is placed under a downspout, with water from the downspout filling it up during a rain event. A nozzle near the bottom lets you access water when it is needed. Rain barrels can be purchased, or made at home using items found at a hardware store. The stored water can be used to water your garden or lawn.



## HOW RAIN BARRELS HELP YOUR HOUSE AND YARD:

- Save water
- Reduce pollution by reducing stormwater runoff
- Prevent wet spots near rain gutter outlets
- Provide water without chlorine, lime, or calcium which is great for gardens and lawns

## WHAT ABOUT MOSQUITOES?

Having a screen over your rain barrel will prevent mosquitoes from getting in and laying eggs. You can also buy a mosquito control tablet with BTI, a naturally-occurring bacteria that targets mosquito larvae. BTI is harmless to plants, animals, and people.



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