



Rain Barrels

A rain barrel is a great “low-tech” way to tap into a free supply of water that would otherwise drain into the sewer system.

Any homeowner can do it! You simply install a large drum below the downspout of a gutter to catch the rainwater runoff from your roof. A standard fifty-five-gallon rain barrel can fill in a matter of minutes during a strong rainstorm. Most come with a spigot for filling watering cans and a connection for a soaker hose, making it easy for you to use the water you collect to irrigate your lawn, water your plants or wash your car.

Rainwater is good for your lawn and plants. Rainwater is fresh, naturally soft and low in salt and chlorine, making it great for nourishing plants or landscape during the dry summer months.

By capturing this water as it falls, rain barrels minimize runoff pollutants and protect everyone’s water supply. Rainwater picks up fertilizer, oil, pesticides and other contaminants as it travels over hard surfaces and lawns into storm sewers. Here in St. Louis, some of this water flows directly into streams, lakes and other bodies of water, where it can impact water quality.

In short, rain barrels can save money, improve the vitality of plants, and help protect the environment.

For more information, consult the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District’s website at www.msprojectclear.org or the Deer Creek Alliance’s website at <http://www.deercreekalliance.org/cost-share>. Rain barrels are commercially available from a number of sources and some community/public organizations have in the past offered these for sale.