

Rain Barrels



When it rains, water from roofs, driveways, sidewalks, and roads is directed to storm drain inlets and travels, unfiltered and untreated, directly to the nearest stream or river. This “runoff” often contains pesticides, excess nutrients from fertilizers and pet waste, litter, and fluids from leaking cars. The runoff itself is a problem because all that extra water being directed to waterways not naturally formed to carry it causes bank erosion. Erosion causes muddiness or “sedimentation” in the stream which harms wildlife and can cause homeowners to lose land along an eroded stream.

Homeowners, renters, and land managers can promote “infiltration” - rain water soaking into the ground where it doesn’t cause erosion and can restore groundwater supplies - by installing rain gardens and rain barrels. Rain barrels store water that runs off your roof that would normally be directed to the street and storm drain inlet. The stored rainwater can then be used to water the lawn or a garden.

Things to remember when using a rain barrel:

- Inlet must be covered by a mesh screen to prevent debris and mosquitoes from entering the rain barrel.
- Overflow must be directed away from the house foundation or back into the downspout outlet pipe. Some municipalities do not allow downspout disconnection, so the overflow must be directed back into the downspout outlet pipe.
- Downspout diverters allow manual switching from rain barrel to downspout or can do this automatically when the rain barrel is full.
- Rain water is free!

Please see reverse side for more information.

People frequently ask the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District staff for names of contractors/vendors who work in Franklin County. We do not encourage or discourage the use of any specific contractor/vendor for conservation work. Landowners are encouraged to request references and check out the references prior to hiring a contractor to do improvements to your property. Contractors/vendors who wish to be added to the list should contact the Franklin Soil and Water office at (614) 486-9613. Franklin Soil and Water programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

Disconnecting downspouts is not allowed in some municipalities. A downspout diverter that allows overflow from the rain barrel to continue to flow into the downspout or placing the overflow hose into the discharge pipe is recommended in those areas.

Rain Barrel Vendor	Address
A. M. Leonard	www.amleo.com
Backyard Experience	3515 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215 (614) 261-0355
Boulevard Gardens	3050 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH (614) 262-7303
Container Gardening	1200 Corrugated Way, Columbus, OH 43201 (614) 421-2626 x12
FLOW (Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed)	(occasionally have workshops for landowners in the watershed with cost-share on rain barrels, funding permitting) (614) 267-3386 www.olentangywatershed.org
Friends of Big Walnut Creek	(occasionally have workshops for landowners in the watershed with cost-share on rain barrels, funding permitting) (614) 784-0894
Gardeners' Supply	www.gardeners.com
Generation Green	6734 Sawmill Rd. (corner of 161 & Sawmill) (614) 761-2222 www.generationgreenstore.com
Growing Solutions	1040 Georgesville Road, Columbus, OH (614) 276-7511
Little Square Farm	3417 Oaklawn Street, Columbus, OH 43224 (614) 784-8505 www.littlesquarefarm.com
Oakland Nurseries	Dublin, OH and Oakland Park, Columbus, OH (614) 268-3511
Rain Brothers	211 Arcadia, Columbus, OH 43214 (614) 208-1593 www.rainbrothers.com
Urban Gardener	940 North High Street, Columbus, OH (614) 299-4769
Walmart	1693 Stringtown Rd. Grove City, OH 43123 614-539-8560 5900 Britton Pkwy. Columbus, OH 43016

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Natural Resource Conservation Service
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