

STORMWATER

Tip of the Week

Week 14: April 6, 2021

WHY SHOULD I USE A RAIN BARREL?

A Rain Barrel is a water tank which is used to collect and store rain water runoff, typically from rooftops via rain gutters. Rain Barrels are devices for collecting and maintaining harvested rain. Rain Barrels are installed to make use of soft rain water for home use, reduce public utility water use, and aid self-sufficiency. Here are 6 benefits of having a rain barrel at home!

It helps to reduce runoff and improve water quality.

Because rain barrels collect rainwater that would otherwise runoff into the sewers, taking with it pesticides, fertilizers, and other pollutants that it picked up traveling through lawns and along driveways and streets.

It's healthier for your plants. If you have outdoor plants, they're already getting rainwater the natural way. But using water from a rain barrel for your plants even on dry days is much better for them than municipal water.

It can help prevent soil from eroding. Collecting rainwater from your gutters prevents excess water from going through your yard when it's raining. Slowing this down helps reduce the amount of erosion that's happening and prevents all the nutrients from being washed away.

It helps conserve water. By collecting and using rainwater to tend to your garden, wash your car, clean your windows, or even give the dog a bath, you're saving the tap water you'd usually use for these tasks.

It comes in handy in a drought. If you live in an area where water is scarce in the hot summer and are under-water conservation restrictions, having a rain barrel full of water comes in really handy. While you can't drink it, you can use it to do multiple chores around the house and keep your garden and lawn moist when water is scarce.

It can save you money. Since you're using less tap water, your water bill can go down. Imagine not having to pay for the water you use to tend to your lawn or garden by collecting enough from the sky on those rainy spring days!

