

# RECYCLE THE RAIN!

## RAIN BARREL

### USE & INSTALLATION



Western New York Stormwater Coalition



Erie County Department of Environment & Planning

#### Stormwater Pollution Awareness

A growth in urbanization has caused an increase in impervious surfaces. The result is an increase in stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff is defined as rain, melted snow and ice that does not soak in to the ground. Stormwater collects in a storm sewer system and empties into our local waterways. Along the way, stormwater runoff collects many pollutants such as lawn chemicals, bacteria from pet waste and automotive fluids, which can harm water quality and aquatic life. One way to decrease stormwater pollution is to recycle the rain with a RAIN BARREL!



#### Rain Barrel Tips

- ◆ DO NOT DRINK THE WATER
- ◆ Use the collected rainwater for..
  - ◆ Watering lawns
  - ◆ Watering gardens, potted plants (indoors & out)
  - ◆ Washing cars, bicycles, patio furniture, and garden tools
- ◆ Make sure your rain barrel is placed on a level, supportive base.
- ◆ Use your rail barrel regularly. An intense or lengthy rain can overflow a rain barrel. Consistent use will keep water from stagnating.
- ◆ Watch for damage, obstructions, and debris in the barrel and/or on the screen.
- ◆ At the end of the season empty the rain barrel and leave the spigot open. Store upside down or indoors to prevent freezing

Rain barrels are available in most home stores and online. Styles vary from basic barrels to decorative styles. You can make your own barrel as well. The illustration below depicts the basics: barrel; spigot; overflow tube; and inflow device. There are Do-It-Yourself kits containing these basic supplies or they can be purchased separately.

**Installing your Rain Barrel**

1. Choose a downspout near your garden.
2. Make sure your downspout is secured to your house with a bracket.
3. At least four inches from the top of your rain barrel, cut your downspout using a hacksaw. The height of the cut will depend on the type of diverter attachment or downspout elbow and rain barrel platform.\* Don't forget to save the downspout cutout, you may want to reattach it for winter.
4. Secure the attachment or downspout elbow to the downspout using screws or brackets.

\*\* If your rain barrel comes with specific directions, refer to those for installation.

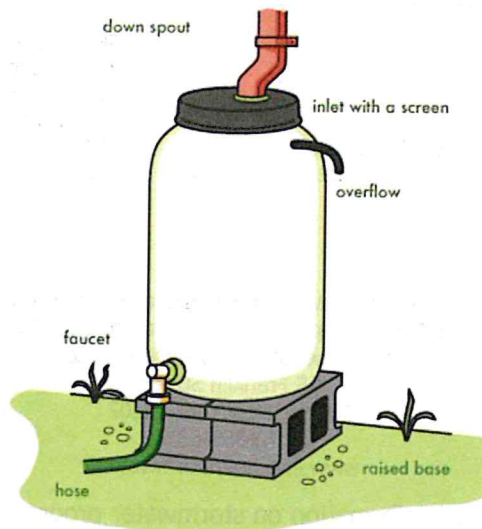


Image courtesy of recycletheraindrops.com



WNY  
Stormwater  
Coalition

**A Partnership to Protect Water Quality**

The following communities and agencies participate in the Western New York Stormwater Coalition:

**Erie County**

- |                         |                  |                   |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Alden (V)               | Depew (V)        | Lancaster (V)     |
| Alden (T)               | East Aurora (V)  | Lancaster (T)     |
| Amherst (T)             | Eden (T)         | Orchard Park (V)  |
| Angola (V)              | Elma (T)         | Orchard Park (T)  |
| Aurora (T)              | Evans (T)        | Sloan (V)         |
| Blasdell (V)            | Grand Island (T) | Tonawanda (C)     |
| Boston (T)              | Hamburg (V)      | Tonawanda (T)     |
| Buffalo Sewer Authority | Hamburg (T)      | West Seneca (T)   |
| Cheektowaga (T)         | Kenmore (V)      | Williamsville (V) |
| Clarence (T)            | Lackawanna (C)   |                   |

**Niagara County**

- |              |                           |                |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Cambria (T)  | Niagara (T)               | Porter (T)     |
| Lewiston (T) | Niagara Falls Water Board | Wheatfield (T) |
| Lewiston (V) | North Tonawanda (C)       | Youngstown (V) |
| Lockport (T) | Pendleton (T)             |                |

(C- City; T- Town; V- Village)

**Agencies and Consultants**

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Erie County DEP/DPW/DSM                           | GHD Engineering           |
| Niagara County DPW                                | Hannon Engineering        |
| SUNY at Buffalo                                   | Metzger Civil Engineering |
| Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper                       | Nussbaumer & Clarke, Inc. |
| Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District    | Wm. Schutt & Associates   |
| Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District | Wendel                    |
| Clark Patterson Lee                               |                           |

**Western New York Stormwater Coalition**

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For more information on stormwater programs in the municipalities listed above, contact M. Rossi 858-7583