



Rain Barrel Information



What Is a Rain Barrel, and How Does It Work?

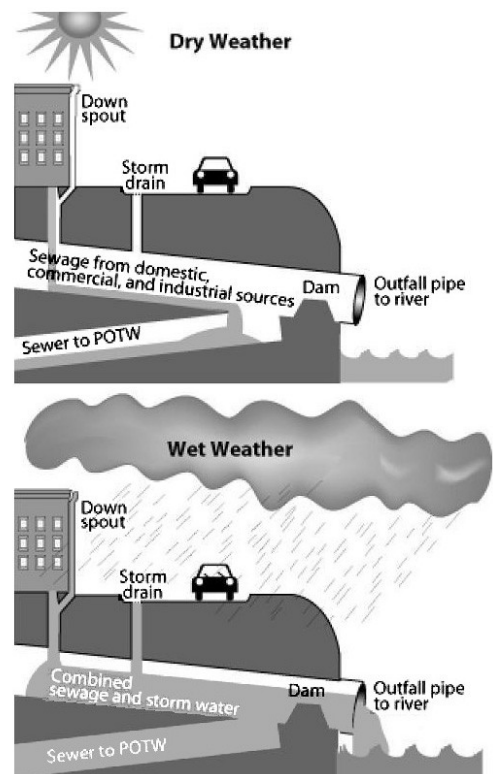
A rain barrel is a large, watertight barrel that is attached to a downspout. The water coming off of the roof runs down the downspout and fills up the rain barrel. If there is a lot of rain, the extra water flows out of the rain barrel through the overflow located at the top of the barrel. The overflow directs the excess water to where it was originally directed by the downspout, for example, to a sewer drain or a rain garden.

Rain Barrels Protect our Waterways

Capturing water in rain barrels reduces the strain on the storm sewer systems. Rain barrels not only help prevent flooded basements but also reduce the amount of sewage that winds up in rivers like the River des Peres via CSOs (Combined Sewage Overflows).

A CSO is an antiquated type of sewer system that combines sewage with storm water and directs the resulting mixture to a POTW (Publicly Owned Treatment Works). In moderate and heavy rains, the sewers fill with more water than the treatment facility can handle. CSOs allow for the excess water to overflow into the river, sewage and all.

By capturing water in a rain barrel during a storm, we can reduce the amount of sewage flowing into our rivers.



Rainwater is the best water for your plants!

Tap water has been treated with fluoride and chlorine so that it is safe to drink, but these chemicals can be harmful to your plants. Rainwater from a rain barrel is chemical-free and great for your plants.