

## *Water Conservation Project Ideas*

# Rain Barrels

*Installing a rain barrel next to your home is a simple, low-cost way to conserve water and save money.*

### **What is a rain barrel?**

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rainwater from a roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to culverts and streams. A rain barrel is usually composed of a 40 - 55-gallon drum, a vinyl hose, PVC couplings, and a screen grate to keep debris and insects out. A rain barrel can be installed under any residential gutter down spout. Barrels are available at all local hardware stores and can be delivered. They come in a variety of colors, shapes, sizes and can include lids and attached hoses. They range in cost from \$50 - \$150.

### **Why install a rain barrel?**

Nationwide, landscape irrigation is estimated to account for nearly one-third of all residential water use, totaling nearly 9 billion gallons per day. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when it is needed to water plants, wash cars or any other non-potable water use. A rain barrel will save most homeowners about 1,300 gallons of water during the peak summer months. Saving water not only helps protect the environment by reducing storm water run-off, it saves homeowners money and decreases demands on the Town's single water source.

### **How can rainwater be used?**

Consider these ideas for your mineral-rich, chlorine-free rainwater:

- Attach a hose to the bottom spigot and top overflow valve and water landscaped areas.
- Fill a bucket of watering can to hand-water plants in your garden and indoor plants.
- Use the rainwater to wash cars and bicycles.

### **Want more information?**

Rain barrels can be purchased online or you can even DIY your own "water harvesting system." Lowe's Hardware's website has a great "How to Buy, Install and Use A Rain Barrel" page to get you started. <https://www.lowes.com/n/how-to/buying-installing-and-using-a-rain-barrel>.