



SLOW THE FLOW: LET THE RAIN SOAK IN!

RAIN BARRELS

Why use a Rain Barrel

- ✓ To catch rain water that falls on your roof for future use, thus reducing polluted storm water flow into streams
- ✓ To provide water for gardens when needed, thus reducing use of purified potable water for gardening (reducing your immediate costs for water)

Where do I put it? At downspout closest to an area that needs water

Precautions

- ✓ Ensure that overflow doesn't run into the foundation of your house
- ✓ *Empty barrel when another storm approaches* (or allow a constant slight trickle flow)
- ✓ Secure the barrel so children and animals cannot topple it; secure hose on barrel so children do not drink from it

Actions when using a rain barrel

- ✓ Secure barrel by placing it on a stable, level base (e.g., about 15 " high, to provide a small head of pressure)
- ✓ Use mosquito dunks ("donuts") in barrel to eliminate mosquito breeding; or use mesh screening (or landscape cloth) to cover barrel

Rain barrel water uses: Potted plants, lawns and gardens. Harvested water is NON-POTABLE and is not recommended to use to fill swimming pools, fish ponds or bird baths

Don't use rain barrel water for edibles

- ✓ If your roof has tar, gravel or old asbestos shingles
- ✓ If you use moss retardant on your roof
- ✓ If your downspouts have lead paint or lead soldering

Prepare the barrel for winter

- ✓ Store barrel upside down, inside or outside, and reattach your downspout.
- ✓ Alternatively, open all spigots and hoses, so water will not accumulate, and leave in place over winter.

Clean barrel annually or semi-annually, as needed:

- ✓ Flush with tap water using nozzle on hose. OR
- ✓ Use 1/4 cup bleach (or 1 cup vinegar) in 2 gallons of water; rinse well

Where can I buy one?

- ✓ Arlington Echo (Anne Arundel County) <http://www.arlingtonecho.org/restoration-projects/rain-barrels.html>
- ✓ Baltimore County annual sale (usually end of April)
<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/publicworks/recycling/composting/binsale.html>
- ✓ Local stores and online

What if I decide I don't like using the rain barrel I got free from Howard County?

- ✓ RETURN the barrel to the Alpha Ridge Rain Barrel distribution site or recycle it
- ✓ DO NOT take the rain barrel to the land fill as trash

Home and Garden Information Center
<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic>

Howard County Master Gardeners 410-313-2707
3300 North Ridge Road, Suite 240, Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/howard-county-master-gardeners>

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2017 Master Gardener Rain Barrel Workshop Schedule at Alpha Ridge Landfill 2350 Marriottsville Rd, Marriottsville, MD 21104

Howard County residents are eligible to receive, from the County, a free 55-gal barrel with cut-outs for fittings, to be used for a rain barrel (one barrel per address, please). Resident must buy fittings and assemble the rain barrel. Rain barrel must be used in Howard County.

Recipient of barrel must fill out pledge form and take part in Master Gardener-led workshop. After the workshop, the recipient will know where to buy the fittings needed to complete the rain barrel and how to assemble and maintain the rain barrel. Workshops are ongoing, as needed, **9 am – 11 am, first and third Saturdays, starting April 15 through October 21**. Advance registration is not required.

Thirteen dates for 2017 Rain Barrel Giveaway and Workshops: April 15, May 6, May 20, June 3, June 17, July 1, July 15, August 5, August 19, September 2, September 16, October 7 and October 21.



Barrels at Alpha Ridge Landfill

Control mosquitoes with mosquito dunks

<http://livegreenhoward.com/live/your-home/rain-garden-barrels/>



Notice sturdy base and overflow hose

A bit of whimsy