

Things to remember when using a rain barrel.

- All inlets and outlets should be closed or covered with mesh to prevent mosquitoes and debris from entering the barrel.
- Overflow must be directed away from the foundation of your house to a garden, lawn or back into the downspout outlet pipe. Check your municipality codes or rules on downspout disconnection.
- For everyone's safety, when installing your barrel always make sure that the area or platform is level.
- Empty your barrel and check for downspout blockages regularly to keep the water fresh and flowing.
- Rain water is soft and contains no chlorine, lime, or calcium; and its FREE!
- Winterize your rain barrel.



Introducing : **SORG**
Southeastern Ohio Rain Gardens established in 2010 is a local collaborative effort to promote the benefits of rain gardens and rain barrels for community beautification and clean water. The initiative can provide you with education and technical assistance to help with rain garden assessment, design and planting plans and rain barrel workshops. Assistance is available for residents, homeowners, community organizations, municipalities and businesses.

Please call Athens Soil and Water Conservation District for more information.



Athens Soil & Water Conservation District
69 South Plains Road
The Plains, Ohio 45780

740-797-9686 or 800-582-8890
www.athensswcd.org



Rain Barrels



Making every drop count!



Our Mission:

To promote the benefits of storm water management through the use of rain gardens & barrels for beautification and clean water.



An Athens SWCD rain barrel workshop.

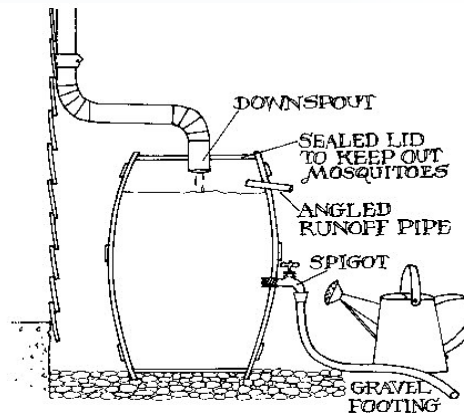
Rain to Run-off...

When it rains, water from roofs, driveways, sidewalks, and roads is directed to storm drain inlets and travels, unfiltered and untreated, straight to the nearest stream or river. This runoff often picks up pesticides, excess nutrients from fertilizers, pet waste, litter, ice control products, and fluids from leaking cars. The amount of runoff itself can be a problem because all the extra water is directed to waterways which were not naturally formed to carry it. The sudden surge and velocity of the runoff causes bank erosion. Erosion causes muddiness or sedimentation in the stream which harms wildlife and can cause homeowners to lose land and property along the eroded stream bank.

What can we do?

Polluted run-off is rapidly becoming the #1 pollution in the United States. Homeowners, renters, and building managers can reduce runoff and promote infiltration allowing the water to soak into the soil, by putting in rain gardens and rain barrels. Rain barrels collect and store water that runs off your roof and would normally be directed to the street or storm drain inlet. In addition to recharging the ground water supply and decreasing the impact of runoff to streams, collecting the rain water can reduce your use of municipal or rural water. A rain barrel is an easy way to get clean, fresh water for your yard and garden, and it's FREE!

Athens SWCD annually offers rain barrel workshops. Call us for the date of our next program.



Reaping the Benefits of a Rain Barrel...

Believe it or not for every inch of rain that falls on a 30' x 40' surface, over 700 gallons of rain water can be collected. Imagine collecting this in rain barrels. Imagine everyone using a rain barrel to collect this water. How much could we ...

- lower water costs
- alleviate flooding
- recharge ground water
- decrease storm water run-off pollution.
- improve water quality
- use for gardens & trees
- use to wash the car
- use to water pets and livestock*

** Keep in mind this is not potable water for human consumption.*



Multiple barrels can be used to collect several rain events.