

# Why Use Rain Barrels?



Rain barrels collect and store rain water from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains, streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. Harvest rain water to use when you need it most—during the growing season—to water plants; or to wash your car, patio furniture, and other outdoor items.



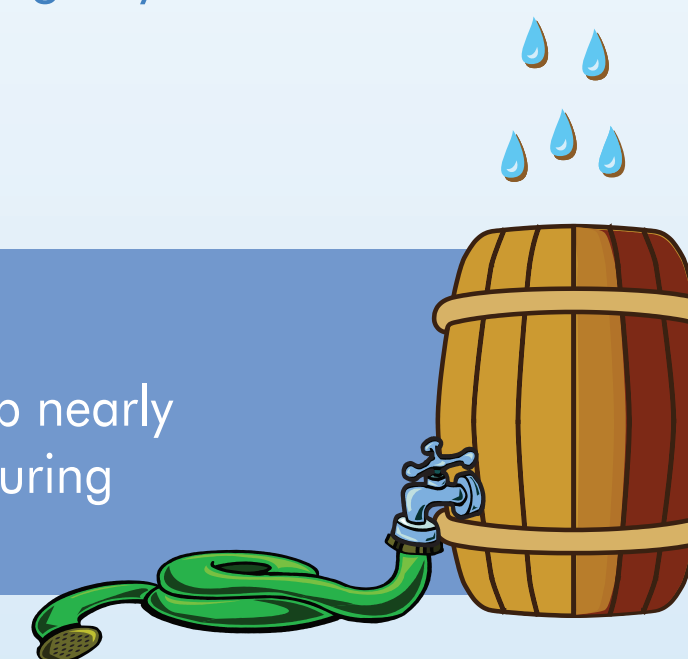
Relatively simple and inexpensive to construct, rain barrels can sit conveniently under any residential gutter down spout. Only 1/4 inch of rainfall from the average roof will fill the typical 55-gallon rain barrel. More than one barrel can be installed in a series to collect more rain water; or larger cisterns can be installed for additional water storage. Saving water not only helps protect the environment, it saves you money and energy by decreasing the demand for treated tap water.

## You Can Make A Difference!

- Install rain barrels and rain gardens in your yard.
- Replace pavement with porous surfaces.
- Learn more about stormwater runoff at [RainScaping.org](http://RainScaping.org).
- Spread the word about RainScaping in your neighborhood.

### Did you know?

Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer.



## Reduce runoff—slow it down, spread it out, soak it in!



Rain Barrel, with soaker hose attached, makes watering native trees and shrubs very convenient



Rain Barrels at Arlington Echo, connected together for additional water storage



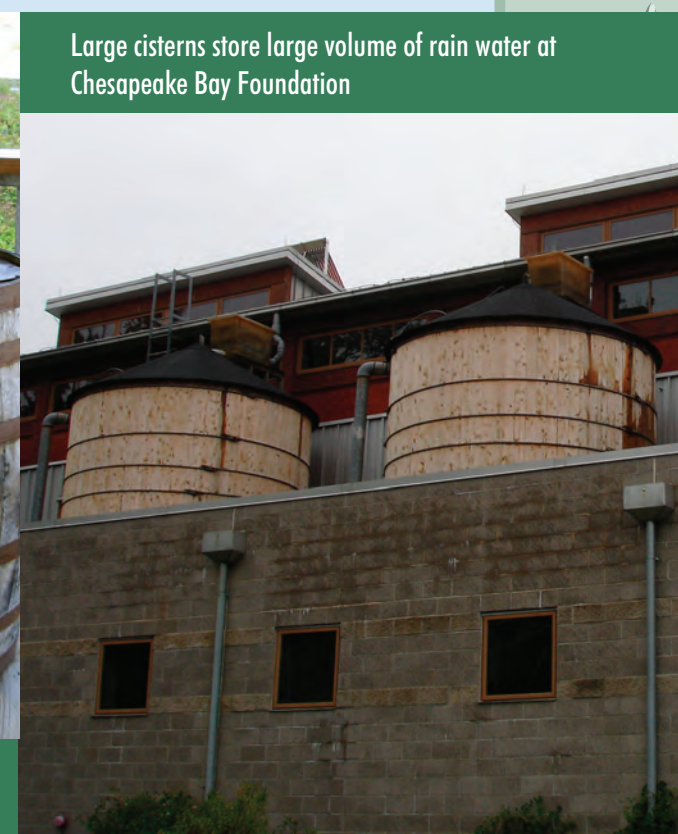
Rain Barrel at RainScaping Education Station at Chesapeake Ecology Center



Rain Barrel surrounded by attractive planter boxes



Rain Barrels at Chesapeake Bay Foundation, connected together for additional water storage



Large cisterns store large volume of rain water at Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Acknowledgements: RainScaping Campaign Sponsors—Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program, and RainScaping Campaign Partners. For more information, visit: [www.RainScaping.org](http://www.RainScaping.org).