BENEFITS OF RAIN BARRELS

Environmental Benefits:

- Reduces roof runoff
- Conserves water use
- Reduces pollutants from entering streams
- Clean water for gardens, lawns, washing cars, etc.!

Maintenance:

- Keep openings covered with a fine-mesh screen to prevent mosquito breeding; You can also use "dunks," a non-toxic bacteria to kill larvae.
- Empty barrel frequently to keep stored water from developing odors. Baking soda (not vinegar) can also help.
- Check barrel and connections frequently to remove debris.
- Drain barrel and connections and place in storage during winter to avoid freezing damage.

Application:

- Residence
- Business
- School
- Anywhere there is a rain leader from a roof!

Take Note:

Water from barrel should NEVER be used for drinking, cooking, or bathing!

Financial support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection though Growing Greener and Environmental Education Funds and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District's Mini-Grant.

RAIN BARRELS: *STORMWATER SOLUTIONS FOR ANY LOCATION*

URBAN: Rain barrels can be installed in any small area; some models even include planter boxes or flat backs for conserving space.

RESIDENTIAL/ BUSINESS: Barrels come in all designs to best fit space, amount of rainwater, and aesthetics.

Stormwater
Best Management Practices
Interpretive Trail

Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Strategy:

RAIN BARRELS

Berks County Conservation District

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ABOUT THIS TRAIL

The Berks Conservation District Stormwater Best Management Practices Interpretive Trail was developed to educate visitors about stormwater management; nonpoint source pollution and its impacts; and, strategies for reducing water pollution that can be implemented at home, at work, or in the community.

What is nonpoint source pollution (NPS)? NPS pollution occurs when precipitation flows over lawns, parking lots, farm fields, city streets and forests picking up pollutants and carrying them into our streams, rivers and oceans.

Activities such as littering, oil leaks, lawn over-fertilization, and improper disposal of chemicals contribute to the contamination of our local waters. If left unchecked, these activities eventually increase the level of pollution content in our streams & waterways.

What can we each do? Strategies for managing stormwater and reducing nonpoint source pollution can be accomplished in many ways. Some of those ways are demonstrated on this trail and include Installation of Pervious Surfaces, Water Quality Units, Rain Gardens or Bioretention Areas, and Subsurface Infiltration Systems.

Was this information helpful? Log on to **www.berkscd.com** to let us know!

ON THE TRAIL: RAIN BARRELS

What are Rain Barrels?

A **rain barrel** is a rainwater collection system that stores rooftop runoff that can be used for irrigating gardens and lawns, while conserving water!

Can I use a Rain Barrel?

Cisterns, Rain Barrels, Vertical Storage, and similar devices have been used for centuries to capture stormwater from the roofs of buildings. Capture and reuse encompasses a wide variety of water storage techniques designed to "capture" precipitation, hold it for a period of time, and reuse the water. Storage/reuse techniques range from small, residential systems such as **rain barrels** that are maintained by the homeowner to supplement garden needs, to large, "vertical storage" units that can provide firefighting needs. Storage/reuse techniques can be useful in urban areas where there is little physical space to manage stormwater.

Berks County Conservation District is offering hand-made, custom-crafted rain barrels!

Proceeds Benefit Berks County Conservation District SCHOLARSHIP Funds.

No Refunds.

Each rain barrel is a 55 Gallon Plastic Drum with a spigot, overflow hole, and inlet.

Fill out your order below to purchase your Rain barrel*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of Rain Barrels ($75.00 each) _____

Amount enclosed $_____

Choose your rain barrel color:

___ Blue ___ Green___ White

Detach and mail this order form to:

Berks County Conservation District
1238 County Welfare Road / Suite 200
Leesport, PA 19533
Phone: 610-372-4657

Please make all checks out to:
Berks County Conservation District.

**Please allow for 15-20 days to fulfill your order. You will receive a phone call or email when your rain barrel is ready to be picked up.*