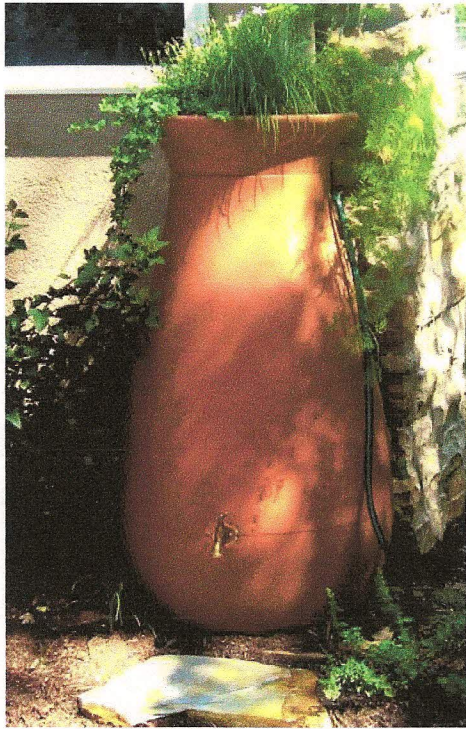




Rain Barrels



When it rains, water from roofs, driveways, sidewalks, and roads is directed to storm drain inlets and travels, unfiltered and untreated, directly to the nearest stream or river. This “runoff” often contains pesticides, excess nutrients from fertilizers and pet waste, litter, and fluids from leaking cars. The runoff itself is a problem because all that extra water being directed to waterways not naturally formed to carry it causes bank erosion. Erosion causes muddiness or “sedimentation” in the stream which harms wildlife and can cause homeowners to lose land along an eroded stream.



Homeowners, renters, and land managers can promote “infiltration” - rain water soaking into the ground where it doesn’t cause erosion and can restore groundwater supplies - by installing rain gardens and rain barrels. Rain barrels store water that runs off your roof that would normally be directed to the street and storm drain inlet. The stored rainwater can then be used to water the lawn or a garden.

Things to remember when using a rain barrel:

- Inlet must be covered by a mesh screen to prevent debris and mosquitoes from entering the rain barrel.
- Overflow must be directed away from the house foundation or back into the downspout outlet pipe. Some municipalities do not allow downspout disconnection, so the overflow must be directed back into the downspout outlet pipe.
- Downspout diverters allow manual switching from rain barrel to downspout or can do this automatically when the rain barrel is full.
- Rain water is free!

Please see reverse side for more information.

