

The Change of Natural Hydrology

Construction changes a site's hydrology. Trees, grasses and crops that once absorbed rainfall are removed and replaced with impervious surfaces, like rooftops and asphalt roads, that reduce groundwater infiltration.

A roof of 2000 square feet of water will produce 1200 gallons of water runoff per 1 inch of rain.

The Benefits of Rain Barrels:

- ❖ Collects Natural Water
- ❖ Protects Our Water Supply
- ❖ Reduces Stormwater Runoff
- ❖ Reduces Groundwater Pollution

Make Every Drop Count!
Our Future Depends On It!



For More Information

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For More Conservation Ideas

www.MPCNaturalResources.org

Recycle the Rain



The Why & How of Installing Your Own Rain Barrel



Save Energy, Money & Water

What is it?

A rain barrel connects to the downspout from a house or building and harvests runoff so that it may be used later for watering your lawn and garden, washing your car, or even cleaning your windows.

Materials Needed

- ❖ 32 Gallon Trash Can
- ❖ ½" Hose bib / faucet
- ❖ ½" O-Ring
- ❖ ½" Nut
- ❖ Utility Knife
- ❖ Mesh Screen (mosquito control)



Tools Needed

- ❖ Drill (7/8" & 5/8" paddle bit)
- ❖ Wrench
- ❖ Hack Saw
- ❖ Utility Knife
- ❖ Elbow Grease

Getting Started

Step 1. Drill a hole for the hose bib approximately 6 inches from the bottom of the trash can.

Step 2. Screw hose bib into this hole. From the inside of the trash can, insert O-ring, thread nut onto hose bib and tighten.

Step 3. Cut an opening in the top of the trash can with utility or other sharp knife to accept your downspout.

Step 4. Cut a piece of mesh screen slightly larger than the trash can, and secure the lid tightly over the screen.

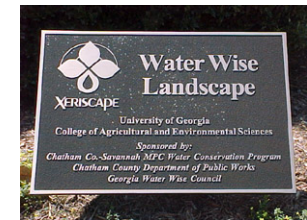
Step 5. Redirect downspout into opening in the lid. Cut downspout as necessary. Remember to check and clear the screen of any debris on a regular basis.

Another Option

If creating your own rain barrel is intimidating, you can also purchase them pre-made at many local garden centers or online.

Xeriscape Smart Landscaping

Xeriscape is a simple, seven-step approach to developing a lush but water-wise landscape. The beauty of this method is that it not only saves water, but it saves time, energy and money.



The Resourceful Landscape at the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens in Chatham County puts principles to action. There you will find a variety of ways to save water and recycle resources in the landscape without sacrificing quality and beauty of the environment. Using rain barrels to capture natural rainfall is certainly an important part of landscaping smartly.

For more Information Contact: The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service Bamboo Farm & Coastal Gardens (912) 921-5460