

OVERVIEW

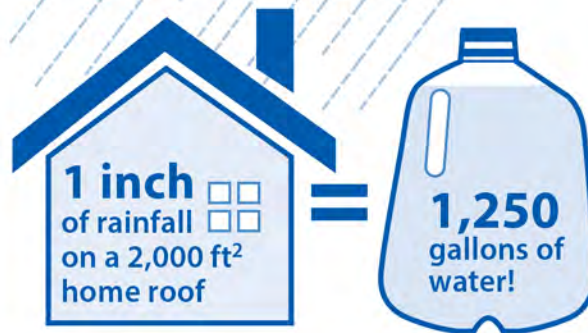
BUFFALO NIAGARA WATERKEEPER'S mission is to protect and restore our water and surrounding ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. We **PROTECT** clean water, **RESTORE** the health of ecosystems, **CONNECT** people to water, and **INSPIRE** economic growth and community engagement.

Purchase Rain Barrels & Diverters at our office on 721 Main St. Buffalo, N.Y.

Distributing rain barrels and teaching citizens about the associated benefits is important to our mission - empowering individuals by teaching them to become stewards of our water. Using a rain barrel may seem like a small step to take, but collectively we can make a massive positive impact on our local waterways.

PROTECTING YOUR LOCAL WATERSHED

When a storm brings wet weather, rain flows off hardscapes (such as a roof or driveway) and picks up contaminants (oil, trash, etc.) along the way. By collecting and absorbing rainwater onsite, you are helping to reduce the amount of runoff entering stormdrains and contaminating local waterways.



DID YOU KNOW?

Disconnecting downspouts and using a rain barrel helps prevent excess stormwater from entering and overloading local sewer systems.

BENEFITS TO YOU



Collecting rain water helps you **SAVE MONEY** on your water bill by using the rain water in place of tap water for watering plants, cleaning tools, washing the car, and other outdoor chores.



Rain water is **BETTER FOR YOUR PLANTS AND SOIL** than tap water, because rain water is free of chemicals such as fluoride and chlorine used in the municipal water supply.



By installing a rain barrel, you become an inspiring example to others of environmental stewardship. If 100 houses in a neighborhood installed three 60-gallon rain barrels, 16,000 gallons of water could be saved after just ¼ inch of rainfall. Your actions can inspire others to collectively make great change!

BENEFITS TO THE ENVIRONMENT



Rain barrels help to **DECREASE POLLUTION** caused by heavy rain. It also reduces direct runoff from chemical fertilizers and pesticides. By decreasing the amount of stormwater runoff, you are decreasing the amount of pollutants entering our waterways.



It requires energy and resources to treat and transport water. Rain barrels help reduce our reliance on pumped and treated water sources. These barrels utilize the rain water that falls on your own roof, helping reduce your environmental footprint and conserve municipal water.

Lawn and garden watering make up

NEARLY 40%

of total household water use during summer months!



INSTALLATION

SAVE THE RAIN.

1 Choose a downspout on your house or garage that is close to the plants you water most or where your rain barrel's overflow will soak into your own yard, and not your neighbors' property. Place your rain barrel on a pervious surface that allows overflow from your rain barrel to soak into the ground and not pool or seep into your house or garage foundation.

2 Next, measure the height to cut the downspout. Be sure to measure the height of the barrel and the height of the diverter that will direct water into the barrel. You may want to elevate your rain barrel for better flow. If so, include elevation in your measurements.

3 Using a hacksaw, cut out the section of the downspout where the diverter will be placed. Slip the diverter into the downspout and screw it into place. Reattach the bottom portion of the downspout.



Diverters allow water to flow into the barrel. Barrels include a screen to prevent debris from entering, and seal the system to keep out mosquitoes.

SEASONAL CARE

To avoid odors, drain the water at least once per month and remove any leaves or organic debris in the barrel and in the netting. If a smell does occur, add a capful of chlorine bleach to the water and let it sit for a day or two before using on plants. Don't use vinegar to clean your rain barrel!

SUMMER

WINTER

Before the first freeze, rain barrels should be emptied and stored upside down, preferably indoors, and the downspout should be reconnected if a diverter is not being used. Freezing water expands and may damage your rain barrel. Reinstall the barrel and diverter in the spring after threat of freezing has past.



TO COLLECT MORE RAIN WATER, CONSIDER LINKING RAIN BARRELS TOGETHER!

IMPORTANT NOTES

RAIN BARREL WATER IS NOT FOR HUMAN OR PET CONSUMPTION

➔ If you elevate the barrel, the structure you use must be able to support the weight of a full barrel. A gallon of water weighs about 8.3 pounds. So, if a 60-gallon barrel weighs 30 pounds empty, it will weigh almost 500 pounds when full.

SHARE YOUR STORY!

Share a photo of your rain barrel on social media by using the hashtag:

#BNWRainBarrel

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram:

@BNWaterkeeper

For additional information or to purchase a Rain Barrel or Diverter, please contact:

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**BUFFALO NIAGARA
WATERKEEPER®**

RAIN BARREL INFORMATION GUIDE

