

## Rainbarrel management

Rain barrels provide free water from your own roof/watershed. A rain barrel is not a stormwater disposal method, but is a way to capture a small fraction of the rainwater that flows off your roof. The rest of the runoff will still need to go to an approved stormwater discharge location.

### Safety Considerations

- Secure your rainbarrel on a firm, level surface. A full 55-gallon rain barrel weighs over 400 lbs. and tipping is a risk if it's unsecured or on uneven ground.
- Only use structurally sound, food-grade containers made to hold liquid as rain barrels. Trash cans are not designed to withstand the pressure of water.
- Exclude mosquitoes and debris by using a lid with a sturdy fine mesh covering all openings.
- **Never** use rain barrel water for drinking, cooking or other potable uses.
- Discharge overflow water to a safe location.

### Maintenance

- Clean gutters at least twice a year, more often if you have trees.
- Ensure roof flashing directs water into the gutter and all parts are securely fastened together.
- Tilt gutters to direct water to downspouts and fix low spots or sagging areas along the gutter line with spikes or place new hangers as needed. Check leaks.
- Clean out the rain barrel and check for leaks at least once a year.
- Check and clear downspout elbows, rain barrel screening, and overflow to prevent clogging.
- Check that screens remain secure to prevent mosquito entry.
- If overflow is to a raingarden, monitor the overflow area and regrade soil if necessary to make sure water drains away from structures and does not flow onto pavement, sidewalks, or neighboring properties.