

## Resources

- Bewaterwise®.com: Rain garden and plant information with free online landscape courses
- The Drought Tolerant Garden: Los Angeles County Handbook  
<http://1.usa.gov/1L22DIX>
- City of Los Angeles Rainwater Harvesting Program: A Homeowner's How-To Guide  
<http://bit.ly/1WKZxOF>



### Metropolitan Mission Statement

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.



#### *The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

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## How to Make a Rain Garden

### California Friendly® Landscapes



Cover photos: G<sup>3</sup> Green Gardens Group

Rain is a precious resource in Southern California, where our Mediterranean climate is warm and dry most of the year. A few changes in your landscape design can yield hundreds of gallons of fresh water for your garden, even from a passing storm. A habitat for birds and beneficial insects is a plus. Less runoff into storm drains is an extra added bonus.



**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**



# Getting Started

Notice where rain runs off your roof, driveway, and planted areas. Do you have rain gutters and a downspout?

## Project Ideas

### Easy projects

- Install a rain chain to slow the rain coming from the roof and allow the water to soak into the soil. A rain chain is a beautiful and functional alternative to a covered downspout.
- Redirect the rain gutter downspout from the driveway into the garden.
- Direct the rain gutter downspout into a rain barrel and use the water later for your thirsty garden. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation. Keep the barrel covered for safety and to prevent mosquitoes.

### Bigger projects

- Create a rain garden that captures rainwater and allows it to soak into the soil, like a sponge.
- Find the right spot away from your home's foundation, driveway and sidewalk.
- Make it the right size.
- Turn your soil into a healthy "sponge" instead of a "brick."
- Plant the right plants that won't mind wet feet once in a while.
- Make an overflow path so extra water has a direct path to the street and not back towards your home.

