

What is a rain barrel?

A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores rainwater from your roof and downspout, usually in a 55-gallon drum. The rain barrel is installed at the downspout closest to the area where you will need to water, such as next to a garden.



Are they hard to assemble and install?

No! Rain barrels are relatively easy to assemble and install, come in a variety of different styles to fit your needs, and can be either decorated or camouflaged according to your taste.

Are they expensive?

Rain barrels are relatively inexpensive to construct. ***If you live in the Middle River/Tidal Gunpowder or Bird River Watershed and attend a free rain barrel workshop, GVC will save eligible property owners 50% of costs!***

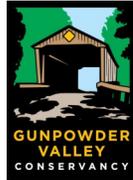
What about mosquitoes?

Rain barrels are designed with screen filters and tightly fitted lids to keep mosquitoes from accessing your water. In fact, rain barrels can actually help prevent mosquitoes from breeding in your yard by capturing and containing the standing water that results from a heavy rain!

Still concerned? Tablets called "mosquito dunks" can be put in your rain barrel for extra protection. These release a bacterial agent that kills mosquito larvae but does not harm people, animals, or plants.

"See Your Feets In Our Creeks"

The Clear Creeks Project is a grant-funded, citizen-based initiative that helps answer a community desire to restore the water quality of the rivers and creeks that comprise the Middle River/Tidal Gunpowder and Bird River Watersheds. Through educational outreach and hands-on efforts, the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) and its community partners will assist residents in creek clean-ups, tree plantings, and yard and garden installations all designed to proudly maintain the health and heritage of our treasured Chesapeake waterways.



www.clearcreeks.org
www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org
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If you'd like to have a rain barrel installed or for more information please contact:

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or

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"Barreling a Lawn"

RAIN BARRELS

A Simple Way to Beautify Our Creeks



Clear Creeks:

Our Water, Our Heritage, Our Pride
www.clearcreeks.org

Build Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops

If you are interested in a rain barrel for your home, attend one of our FREE rain barrel workshops. Building your own rain barrel is fun and easy, and best of all, you'll have your very own barrel to take home with you!

You can save water, save money, and save our creeks—all at the same time!



Contact us to register for a free rain barrel workshop:

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REMEMBER: If you live in the Middle River/Tidal Gunpowder or Bird River Watershed and attend a free rain barrel workshop, the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) will make a rain barrel available to you for only \$30 and install it free of labor charge!

**Rain barrels help us see our feet in our creeks again!
They also help you and your watershed...**



Keep local creeks clean

✦ Rain barrels' greatest benefit is in reducing storm-water runoff. By capturing rainwater from your downspouts, they help reduce erosion, sedimentation, and pollution that would otherwise end up in our creeks and the Chesapeake Bay.

Recharge ground water naturally

✦ Rain barrels capture water that would otherwise run off into storm drains during a heavy downpour. Releasing the water from your rain barrel onto your lawn and garden allows the water to soak back into the ground gradually, replenishing ground water reserves.

Save money by reducing your water and electricity costs

✦ Consider this—a one inch rainstorm produces 700 gallons of water runoff from the average home roof. That's equal to 17 baths or 58 showers!

✦ A rain barrel will save most homeowners about 1,300 gallons of tap water during the peak summer months by allowing them to use free rainwater from rain barrels instead of tap water to meet outdoor watering needs. A typical 1/2-inch rainfall will fill a 50- to 55- gallon rain barrel.

✦ Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household



water use during the summer. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when you need it most—during periods of drought to water your gardens, wash your car or boat, or top a swimming pool.

✦ Rain barrels reserve your tap water for drinking and lessen the stress on municipal or well water systems. They also decrease your electricity consumption by reducing your need to run your well or water conditioner.



Protect homes from water damage

✦ Rain barrels can capture, redirect, and help to reduce the amount of water that may settle around the foundation of your home.

Collect "soft water," which is healthier for plants

✦ Rain barrels can help improve the health of your gardens, lawns, and trees. They collect an ample supply of naturally "soft" rainwater that contains no minerals, chlorine, fluoride, lime, or calcium. Plants in your garden will respond very well to water from your barrel. After all, rainwater is what plants in the wild thrive on!