

## What is a rain barrel?

A rain barrel is a 55-gallon drum made of PVC plastic that collects and stores rainwater from your roof and downspout. Barrels are installed at the downspout closest to the area where you will need to water, such as next to a garden.



## Can I change the way they look?

Yes! Rain barrels can be either decorated or camouflaged according to your taste. Watch the GVC website calendar for our annual rain barrel decoration workshop!

## Are they hard to assemble and install?

No! Rain barrels are relatively easy to assemble and install. If you need help, we can provide free labor for installation—you are only responsible for the cost of the parts associated with installation.

## Are they expensive?

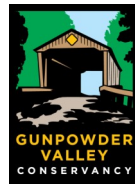
Rain barrels are relatively inexpensive to construct. ***If you live in the Middle River/Tidal Gunpowder, Bird River or Lower Gunpowder Falls watershed and attend a free rain barrel workshop, a rain barrel is only \$30—a cost savings of 50%!***

## 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!

## "See Your Feet 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 in Middle River, Perry Hall, White Marsh, Carney, and other nearby areas in several small 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.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org)  
Gunpowder Valley Conservancy  
P.O. Box 9733  
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If you'd like to purchase a rain barrel or have one installed or for more information please contact:

**Amy Young**  
**Clear Creeks Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator**  
**410-404-4748**

[ayoung@gunpowdervc.org](mailto:ayoung@gunpowdervc.org)

or

**Peggy Perry**  
**Clear Creeks Project Manager**  
[pperry@gunpowdervc.org](mailto:pperry@gunpowdervc.org)

# RAIN BARRELS

## A Simple Way to Beautify Our Creeks



## Clear Creeks:

**Our Water, Our Heritage, Our Pride**  
[www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/clearcreeks](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/clearcreeks)

## Build Your Own Rain Barrel

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:



Peggy Perry  
Clear Creeks Project Manager  
pperry@gunpowdervc.org

Amy Young  
Clear Creeks  
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**REMEMBER: If you live in the Middle River/Tidal Gunpowder, Bird River or Lower Gunpowder Falls 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!**

### More info:

[www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/clearcreeks](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/clearcreeks)

## 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!