

What

exactly is a rain barrel?

A rain barrel is a container that connects to your downspout, collecting water, and decreasing the amount of rain that runs off your property.

Why

is this important?

Reduced runoff helps prevent water pollution and flooding. Every time it rains, unabsorbed water rushes to storm drains and directly to local waterways. This water carries pollutants such as pet waste, automotive fluids and fertilizer that run off your lawn.

Who

can benefit from a rain barrel?

The water saved in your rain barrel can be used for watering flowers, gardens and lawns all through the summer – even in times of drought. In addition, reduced water demand will save money by lowering use of municipal water supplies.

Where

can I get one?

Bluegrass Greensource sells fully assembled 55-gallon rain barrels year round. For pricing and more information on Bluegrass Greensource rain barrels, call toll free 866-222-1648 or visit www.bgGreensource.org.



Public Art

Each year, Bluegrass Greensource partners with Central Kentucky artists, schools and community groups to turn rain barrels into functional art. These barrels are displayed throughout the region in April and May to bring attention to water quality issues.



**BLUEGRASS
GREENSOURCE**

Bluegrass Greensource is a non-profit organization providing environmental resources and information to schools, community groups, local governments and citizens in Central Kentucky.

Bluegrass Greensource
PO Box 910384
Lexington, KY 40591
(866) 222.1572
www.bgGreensource.org

Follow us on Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, and YouTube!

What is a Rain Barrel?



**BLUEGRASS
GREENSOURCE**

Printed on 100% recycled paper

Rain Barrel Tips and Tricks

Because Bluegrass Greensource barrels are fully assembled, they are simple to use and install. After purchasing your rain barrel, follow these simple steps to hook it up and maintain it...

- 1** Cut off your downspout
- 2** Redirect your downspout with a flexible downspout connector
- 3** Attach the flexible downspout connector to the barrel's downspout adaptor (Connectors can be found at most hardware stores)
- 4** Place the barrel on cinder blocks or a stand to allow for better water flow
- 5** Attach an overflow hose to prevent excess rainwater from saturating the ground around your home foundation
- 6** Empty your rain barrel periodically to prevent the water from becoming stagnant
- 7** Agitate your barrel before using the water to help prevent build-up of sediment in the bottom
- 8** Be sure to drain your barrel before the temperature falls to freezing and keep the spigot open throughout the winter to prevent cracking



Typical Water Pollutants & ways to help!

Don't mow directly to the edge of a creek and never dump **lawn and garden clippings** into a storm drain

Use low-phosphorous **detergents**

Pick up your **pet waste** and dispose of it properly

Check your car for fluid leaks such as **motor oil** or **grease**. If you find them, fix them!

Minimize your use of **fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides** and never use them before a big rain

Wash your car in the grass so the **soap** doesn't run directly into the storm drain, or use a car wash

Don't **litter**

Properly dispose of all **household hazardous waste**, such as paint and household cleaners

Direct gutter downspouts away from **paved areas**, or use a rain barrel!

To learn more about water quality, log on to www.bgGreensource.org



Properly installed
rain barrel.