Rain Barrels:
5 things to consider

Rain Barrels are an environmentally friendly way to minimize water usage (*and reduce a homeowners water costs*) during warmer months. An effective stormwater management solution, rain barrels collect runoff from rooftops that can be used for other things, such as watering the lawn, flowers, or washing patio furniture.

Using a rain barrel reduces the volume of water that needs to be treated through storm drains, minimizing localized flooding and erosions. Re-using this harvested rain water for home use eliminates 100 percent of the toxins, solids, metals and pathogens that would have reached downstream water bodies through the storm sewer.

Attached to a home's downspout, rain barrels work by delivering water through the force of gravity. Rain water from the roof's surface collects in the rain barrel. A hose attached to a nozzle in the barrel allows this water to be re-used for outdoor watering needs.

Want to install a rain barrel? Visit HarvestH2O.com to learn how.

1. **Locate your rain barrel on level and stable ground**
2. **Ensure your rain barrel is watertight and has a smooth interior surface**
3. **Empty the water in your rain barrel weekly to eliminate the chances of attracting mosquitoes and other bugs**
4. **Disconnect your rain barrel to prevent freezing during the winter months**
5. **DO NOT collect the run-off from tar and gravel, asbestos shingle, or treated cedar shake rooftops**

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