

## caring for your rain barrel

- During the winter, bring in the barrels or at least make sure to turn them upside down so freezing water does not crack or damage the barrel.
- Make sure the overflow hose is long enough to divert all the collected water away from your house's foundation.
- When possible, empty your barrel within four days following a storm.
- Consider planting a rain garden at the base of your overflow hose to help reduce the runoff.
- Raise up on stand to increase pressure.

Join over 9,000 people who have already ordered theirs!

Order your rain barrel today  
at [www.mmsd.com](http://www.mmsd.com).

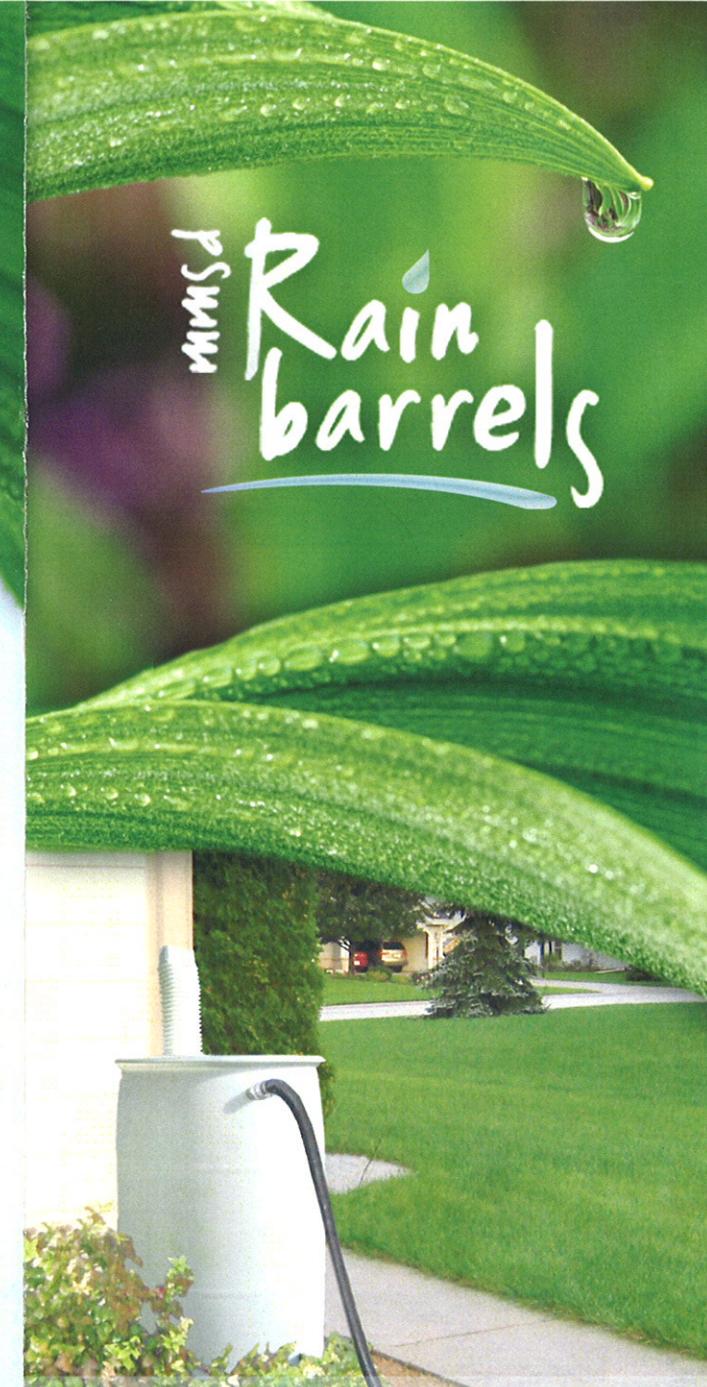
Click on the Rain Barrel link on the left hand side of the webpage.



### Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

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**Rain barrels**



HELP PROTECT OUR RIVERS AND LAKES



# {why you should consider a rain barrel}



You can reduce water pollution, lower your water costs, and help preserve Lake Michigan... all by capturing water from your roof's downspout in a rain barrel. Rain barrels are fun, easy to install, and move.

- **55-Gallon Storage.** Replenishing its supply every time it rains, this barrel captures fresh, untreated rainwater for your gardening needs.
- **Automatic Overflow.** The overflow located on the upper part of the barrel diverts excess rain to a nearby garden, additional barrel, or distant area.
- **Built To Last.** These recycled barrels, which originally contained soda syrup, are made of thick durable plastic.
- **Accessories** you may want to consider purchasing *(not included)*:
  - Standard garden hose for brass threaded spigot
  - Sump pump hose for automatic overflow
  - Stand to elevate rain barrel (these accessories can be purchased at most hardware stores)

Rain barrels help slow down rain runoff so it can drain naturally into the ground. That helps us keep excess water out of sewer systems and keeps rain runoff from collecting pollutants on its trip to nearby waterways.

Collected rainwater is better for plants because it's not chlorinated. It's mildly acidic, which helps plants take up important minerals from the soil.

They can provide water during dry weather, or you can set them to slowly release the water over a 1–2 day period when the rains have subsided. The slower release of rain will allow the water to seep into the soil and be used by plants.

Check out our website for photos of rain barrels in your neighborhood, how-to's, FAQ's and submit your very own rain barrel photo.

[www.mmsd.com](http://www.mmsd.com)

