



RAIN BARRELS: HOW CAN THEY BENEFIT HOME OWNERS AND OUR LOCAL WATER SUPPLY?

Reduces Rainwater Runoff

One important benefit of rain barrels is that they reduce the amount of runoff from our roofs. Runoff is a huge problem in urban and suburban areas, polluting our waterways with fertilizers, pesticides, and other contaminants.

Running water also gathers leaves as it flows, causing storm drain blockages and floods. Reducing runoff helps keep streams clear, and the plants and animals that rely on them healthy.

Improves Local Water Quality

Keeping dirt, pesticides, fertilizers, and yard debris out of our local rivers and streams also improves the local water quality. Polluted runoff from storm drains enters natural waterways, and causes a lot of downstream damage. Preventing that improves the quality of the local waterways, keeping our streams and lakes healthy, along with the humans and animals that use them.

Prevents Soil Erosion

Slowing down the flow of gutter runoff also helps to reduce soil erosion. Erosion can damage your foundation, as well as remove the nutrient-rich topsoil from your garden. Collecting runoff from the roof preserves that topsoil for your plants, and prevents further damage to your landscaping.

Healthier for Your Plants

Not only do rain barrels benefit the environment, they're great for your plants too. Rainwater is the best choice for potted plants, and it's so much better than municipal water!

Municipal water contains chlorine and other chemicals that can build up in the soil, and harm sensitive potted plants. Even well water contains iron and other heavy minerals that can also build up and damage sensitive plants. With minimal contaminants and no chemicals, rainwater is the healthiest choice for your potted plants and gardens.

Provides Water During Droughts

With peak summer temperatures ever-climbing, having water on hand when you need it is always useful for your garden, especially during the driest part of the year.

Collecting rainwater provides extra moisture for plants and gardens during dry periods and water scarcity.

This is especially helpful during periods of drought and water restrictions. You can keep your garden green and bountiful, without drawing on limited community resources, or facing higher usage fees.

Saves You Money

One favorite advantage of rain barrels (and a popular one!) is that they help to save money on your bills. They provide you with a free supply of water, which gets replenished again and again, for no extra cost. It's perfect to save for when you need it the most, especially during high-usage times when your utility bill can become so expensive.

Helps to Conserve Water

Another huge benefit of rain barrels is that they help to conserve water, since you can use it for other things besides your garden. While not potable, rainwater is useful for all kinds of tasks, like filling up buckets for washing the car, patio furniture, windows, the dog, or other household chores.

Use it for watering outdoor containers, gardens, and houseplants in summer, and for filling up a pond and outdoor water features when they get low. Plus, if it sits in the sun for part of the day, you will have pleasantly warm water to clean with.

With so many fantastic benefits of rain barrels, every gardener should have at least one! Once you experience all of these advantages for yourself, you'll want to have one on every gutter of your house.