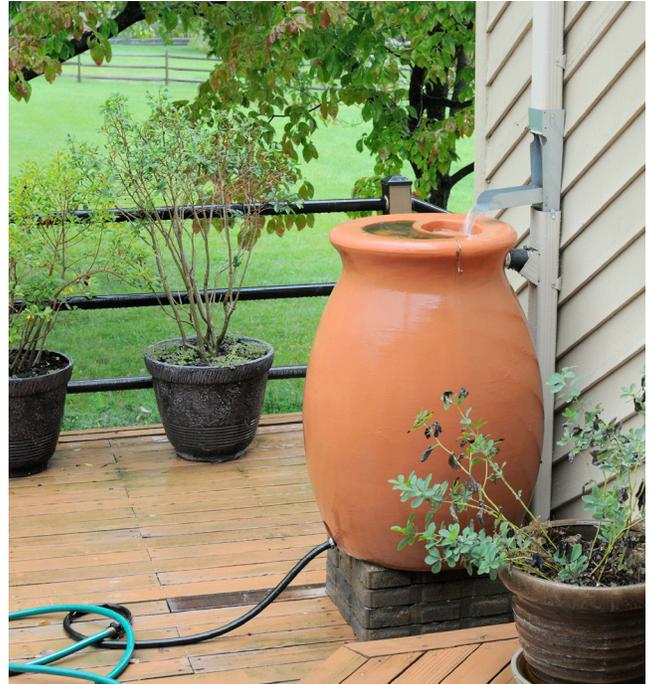


# Rain Barrel Fact Sheet

**Why use a rain barrel?** The average household uses 146,000 gallons of water per year. Up to half of that is used just for watering landscaping during the summer. By collecting rain water you can save energy, water and money while helping keep our streams clean by reducing runoff and erosion.



## Benefits of using a rain barrel:

- Rainwater is better for your plants and soil.
- A water source in times of drought or watering restrictions.
- Reduced runoff pollution from fertilizer, oil, pesticides and other contaminants.
- Erosion prevention; decreases loss of soil
- Helps control moisture levels around the foundation of your home to help to prevent flooding, damp, and mold.
- Can reduce your water bill.
- You'll be doing good for the environment.

## Where can I get a rain barrel?

You can purchase rain barrels at hardware, garden and home stores and find a variety of option online. Locally, the Hendricks County Soil & Water Conservation District sells rain barrels.

Or, you could make one yourself with the help of many DIY instructions online.

## HOW MUCH WATER RUNS OFF OF YOUR ROOF?

Every inch of rain that falls on an area of 1,000 square feet yields approximately 600 gallons of FREE rain water.

Multiply the square footage of your roof (length X width) by 0.6 to estimate your roof runoff volume in gallons.

Example:

1 inch of rain on 1 square foot of roof yields 0.6 gallons; 1 inch of rain onto a 10 ft X 10 Ft area (100sq ft) yields 60 gallons.

These are just estimates, not all the water will be collected in the rain barrel. Some will spill out and evaporate. Generally, rain barrel efficiency ranges between 70 to 90%.

**For more information, contact Stormwater Coordinator Lisa Christie at 317-852-1121 or by email [lchristie@brownsburg.org](mailto:christie@brownsburg.org).**