

REDUCE YOUR “RAINWATER FOOTPRINT” WITH A HOME RAIN BARREL



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The Detroit area receives about 30 inches of rain each year. Many homes will “discharge” over 50,000 gallons via paved surfaces and sloped areas each year. Rainwater runoff flows into storm sewers and storm drains which connect via pipes to lakes and rivers. The rush of the stormwater dislodges aquatic life and intensifies flooding.

Rain barrels are useful to gardeners...can reduce hazards due to ice on paved surfaces....and benefit water quality.

Rain barrel installation and use needs advance planning. These tips from SOCWA Master Composters will help your rain barrel investment work for you!

RAIN BARREL FEATURES TO CONSIDER:

- *Removable top – useful for dipping water out with a watering can.*
- *Overflow portal at the top of the barrel– can be used to handle excess rainwater (overflow) or to connect several rain barrels together.*
- *Stand or blocks for raising the rain barrel two feet or more. Elevation is essential for water pressure through a hose.*
- *Screen over rain barrel opening – to catch debris from the roof.*

NOTE: Mosquito dunks are recommended, since there will be standing water in the bottom of the barrel for most of the year.


