

**Rain barrels don't have to be blue ...**



**Or on the ground ...**



Giving your barrel some height can increase the rate of flow when watering with a hose.

**Or alone.**



To collect more water 2 barrels can be hooked together.

## Why Winterize?



With the freezing and thawing that occurs during a typical northeast Ohio winter, a rain barrel can easily crack. Strong winter winds may also blow it away. If you properly winterize your rain barrel, it will last for many years.

### Steps to winterize your rain barrel

- \* Drain and disconnect it from the downspout
- \* Store it away for the winter in your garage, basement, or storage shed
- \* If kept outside, you can turn the empty barrel upside down and place a heavy object on top to weigh it down
- \* Reconnect the downspout on the house to direct roof water away from your house and its foundation



**Lake County Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

440-350-2730  
[www.lakecountyohio.gov/soil](http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/soil)

All programs and services are available without regard to race, age, gender, national origin, political beliefs, color, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

# BLUE isn't your color?

**Why you should install a rain barrel even if blue isn't your favorite color.**

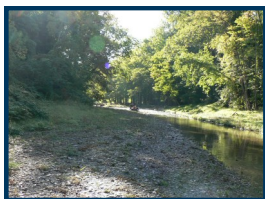




# Rain Barrels:

## Keep Our Streams, Rivers and Lake Erie Healthy

Rain barrels are a real solution to water pollution. They reduce runoff, which helps protect our rivers, streams and ultimately Lake Erie from pollution.



## Reduce Ponding and Flooding

Rain barrels collect the water from your roof and gutters so it doesn't puddle in your lawn or contribute to flooding.

## Reduce Water Waste

Rain barrels reserve water for when you need it, so you don't have to turn on the hose to water your plants or lawn.

## Save Money



Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer. Watering with rainwater can help keep your water bills low, after all it is **free!**

**A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff.**

Ugly rain barrel have you feeling blue?

## Customize it!

### Paint it!

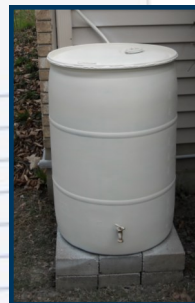
\* If you want a solid color an easy paint to use is Krylon Fusion for Plastic®.

\* If you want to get more creative be sure to:

1. Sand the whole barrel.
2. Prime with 2-3 coats of Kitz brand exterior.
3. Use acrylic paints to make your design.
4. Seal with 3-5 coats of clearcoat.

Recommended clearcoat products

- \* Pratt & Lambert Polycrylic
- \* Sherwin Williams Sher-Clear 1K
- \* Krylon® Fusion for Plastic® Clear Finish
- \* Rust-Oleum® Stops Rust® Protective Crystal Clear Enamel



### Disguise it!



### Barrels don't have to stand out.

Covering your rain barrel with chicken wire or lattice and a native vine, or fencing can blend it seamlessly into your home's landscape.

## Rain Barrel Workshops

Lake SWCD regularly offers Rain Barrel workshops where you will receive all of the parts to complete a barrel, and have access to the necessary tools.



**What does it cost?**  
\$59

**For workshop dates, times and to register contact**

**Lake Metroparks:**

440-358-7275

[www.lakemetroparks.com/programs](http://www.lakemetroparks.com/programs)

### Don't want to make one?

- We have barrels in stock at our office. Just give us a call and we will make one for you.
- Call 440-350-2730 to schedule a time for pickup.

