

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



Or on the ground ...



Or alone.



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

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

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

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.

