

Reduce Runoff with a Rain Barrel

Any hard surface around your house can create runoff - from your roof to your driveway to your patio. If you collect this water and use it around your yard, you will help reduce the amount of water that flushes through a stream during a storm, and filter out some of the pollutants as well. You might even reduce your water utility bill in the summer.

Rain barrels are installed on downspouts around your house. They collect the rain that would otherwise empty into a storm drain or into a muddy spot in your yard. Up to 55 gallons of rainwater can be stored in a repurposed plastic food barrel from every April shower or July cloudburst. This water is free, and also free of utility water additives, such as chlorine and fluoride. Making it ideal to water your garden, lawn or landscaping.

Lake SWCD collaborates with Lake Metroparks to provide rain barrel construction workshops

Workshops for 2014 are scheduled for April 24, May 9, June 11 and August 14 at the Lake County Fairgrounds Natural Resources Building from 7-8pm; May 22 at Penitentiary Glen from 7-8pm; July 12 at Penitentiary Glen from 9-10 am.

You can also call the Lake SWCD office to make arrangements to pick up a pre-made barrel anytime during business hours.

For more information, contact the Lake County Stormwater Management Department at 350-5900 or visit the website www.lakecountyohio.gov/smd.