



Rain Barrel Guidelines

The Village of Maywood encourages homeowners and businesses to use rain barrels as a part of water conservation efforts. Water collected in rain barrels is ideal for a number of outdoor uses, such as watering gardens and lawns, or washing a car.

Free rain barrels are available through a program with the MWRD Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and can be applied for through the Village of Maywood. Alternatively, you may purchase rain barrels at local home improvement stores or online. Prices may range from \$60-\$200, depending on style, size and accessories.

Keep in mind that a 55-gallon rain barrel will fill up quickly. Note that about 600 gallons of water falls on a 1000-square-foot roof during a 1-inch rainfall.

Workshops on rain barrel installation may be available. Check the village website for upcoming events sponsored by the Village's Environmental Beautification Commission.

When installing a rain barrel, please be sure to follow the guidelines below.

- Rain barrels must be designed for the intended purpose of rain capture and must be connected to a gutter downspout.
- Rain barrels must not be connected to the (potable water) irrigation system and must be distributed through a hose or bucket only.
- Rain barrels are restricted to side- and backyards, and must not be used in the front of a residence or business.
- Rain barrels must be placed on a solid and level foundation, such as concrete pad, pavers, or brick for better stability.
- Rain barrels must not block or restrict narrow walkways or paths around the home, which may become a safety/emergency access issue.
- Rain barrels must be algae and UV-resistant or specially constructed sun barriers must be used.
- Overflow pipe from barrel must be directed away from buildings and/or adjacent properties and may flow to landscape (preferred).
- Rain barrel must have a secure lid for child safety, vector control (mosquito, rodent) and debris control.
- It is suggested that the rain barrel be placed on a raised foundation to accommodate a watering can and increase gravity flow.
 - Exposed cement blocks are not permitted if the rain barrel is visible from the street.
 - If cement blocks are used in side-/backyards visible from the street, then they must be covered using decorative tile, or brick, or plantings.
- Alternatively, it is recommended that a pump be installed to increase water pressure and flow from the rain barrel. Solar-powered pumps may be available for purchase from local home improvement stores or through retailers on the internet.
- Rain barrels should be emptied once a year and cleaned with a non-toxic cleaner, such as white vinegar.
- Rain barrel screens and overflow pipes should be checked regularly for clogs or leaks.

Glossary of terms related to rain barrels:

- **Infiltration** – The process whereby rainwater seeps into the soil, recharging the groundwater supply while also filtering the water through the layers of soil
- **Impervious** – An area that does not allow rainwater to pass through to the soil beneath (e.g., concrete sidewalks, asphalt pavement, roof areas)
- **Potable water** – Water suitable for drinking (humans or animals)
- **Non-potable water** – Water not suitable for drinking (humans or animals)
- **Downspout redirect** – A system that changes the way the downspout discharges water from a paved area or underground system to a landscaped area
- **Eave** – The lower border of a roof that overhangs the wall (usually used in plural)
- **Pitch of roof** – The steepness or slope of the roof
- **Energy dissipater** – A device or material used to slow down the speed of water from a downspout as it exits onto the ground preventing erosion.