

Rain Barrels and Water Quality

*Silver Creek Watershed Improvement Project funded by a Nonpoint Source Section 319 Grant from IDEM
Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District*



Benefits of a Rain Barrel

- Reduce water pollution in our rivers and lakes by reducing stormwater runoff
- Naturally soft water with no additives to irritate plants.
- Direct overflow water away from building foundations to more desired locations.
- Save money on your water bill.

Safe Use of Your Rain Barrel

If you make your own rain barrel the type of container you use is important. Make sure it's a food-grade container that was made to hold liquid.

Make sure that you place it on level and stable ground. A typical rain barrel will weigh over 500 pounds when full. Concrete blocks or pavers make a good base. They also raise the barrel off the ground, which increase water pressure coming out of the hose.

Monitor the rain barrels for overflow. If you leave for vacation for a week and haven't taken precautions to avoid the overflow of water, you may end up with damage to the foundation of your home or water in your basement.

Why Install a Rain Barrel?

Rain barrels are above ground water storage vessels. They capture rain runoff from a building roof using the gutter and downspout system. Rain happens. Rain is free. Rain barrels can go a long way in offsetting your domestic water needs: including gardening, car washing, trees, indoor plants or pooling topping. Did you know that during a typical rain event (1 inch in 24 hours) more than 700 gallons of water runs off the roof of a typical home? When rain runs off roofs and lands on impervious surfaces, it cannot soak into the ground. Eventually it enters a storm drain or nearby creek. This excess water or runoff causes the soil in its path to erode more rapid than in naturally would. As the runoff crosses surfaces it picks up sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and other pollutants. Rain barrels intercept stormwater and

put it to good use as well as stopping pollutants entering our water bodies.

Rain barrels can be made or purchased. You can spend anywhere from a few dollars to thousands of dollars. One barrel will not hold all the runoff from your roof so you may want to consider a series of rain barrels connected together. All systems should be covered so animals and small children can fall in and drown. A filter to keep out silt and leaves is a good investment.

Do some detective work before you decide where to put your rain barrel. Look closely to see where each downspout is directing water. Place your rain barrel where it will collect rain that would otherwise become destructive stormwater runoff.

It is best not to collect water

from old tar and gravel roofs, old asbestos shingle roofs, or cedar shakes. While this water is fine for watering your garden, trees, lawns or indoor plants, it should never be used to drink or given to animals.



Rain barrels can be painted just remember the paints must be able to withstand climate conditions and be compatible with the barrel material.

Building your Own Rain Barrel

Supplies

- 1 - plastic barrel
- 2 - 3/4 inch plastic faucets
- Roll of Teflon tape
- All purpose caulk or plumbing sealant
- Fiberglass window screen large enough to cover top hole
- 2 - Garden hose to connect to both faucets (length will vary)

Top hole - If barrel doesn't have a hole use a 1" spade bit and a jigsaw to cut a hole the size of the downspout or slightly larger.

Lower Drain - Drill a hole at least 2" from bottom of barrel using a 1" drill. Screw plastic faucet into hole. Remove faucet, wrap threads in Teflon tape, caulk threads, replace faucet. Caulk area where faucet and barrel meet to ensure

no leakage.

Upper Drain - Repeat instructions from lower drain except drill the hole at least 2" from top.

Screen - Cut screen to fit over downspout hole. Affix screen to barrel with caulk/plumbing sealant. Allow to dry completely before using.

Hoses - Place a hose on each faucet the length you need to make them work best for your site.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful con-

tent to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find “filler” articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Micro-

soft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you’re finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an edito-

rial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

“To catch the reader’s attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

Inside Story Headline

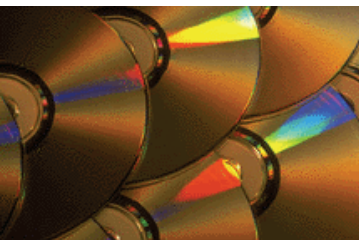
This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you’re trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.



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Organization

*Silver Creek Watershed Improvement Project funded by a
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Primary Business Address

Your Address Line 2

Your Address Line 3

Your Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail: someone@example.com

Your business tag line here.

We're on the Web!

example.microsoft.com

This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your

organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is

a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.



Caption describing picture or graphic.