

# SEPTEMBER FOCUS

## RAIN BARRELS

### What are Rain Barrels?

- Rain barrels are what they sound like, large barrels that collect and contain rainwater from rooftops.
- Connected to a building's downspout, they can typically hold 55 gallons of water.



### Why use Rain Barrels?

- Rain barrels collect free rainwater for outdoor use, reducing your water bill and the need for energy intensive treated water.
- Rain barrels help prevent flooding and keep pollutants like fertilizer from washing into streams and rivers by slowing down runoff.
- Rain barrels give you easy access to water for tasks like watering your garden or cleaning your car (but NOT for drinking).

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Rain barrels attach to your home's downspout to catch rainwater before it becomes runoff.
- A mesh screen keeps out the leaves and debris while a spigot at the bottom lets you easily access the water.
- Rain barrels are simple to install and work well in different climates and home set-ups.

### HOW CAN I SET ONE UP?

- Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District has rain barrels for sale, or you can find one at your local home improvement store.
- You can also build one with a food-grade barrel and a few basic plumbing materials.
- There are many video guides on YouTube that provide great instructions on the set-up process.



Take the quiz to test your knowledge on rain barrels!

Once you take the quiz, you will be entered into a drawing with the chance to win a rain barrel.

The City of Carmel offers Rain Barrel Cost-Share rebates. For more info go to [www.rainonmain.com/carmel-rain-barrel-subsidy](http://www.rainonmain.com/carmel-rain-barrel-subsidy)