



Every time it rains

a host of bacteria, chemicals, fuels and heavy metals wash off our lawns, driveways, sidewalks and streets, running straight into our streams, rivers, and ultimately Lake Superior via the underground storm sewer system. Stormwater runoff has a negative impact on water quality and aquatic habitat by:

- transporting pollutants directly into rivers and lakes
- eroding shorelines which carries sediment into water and increases topsoil loss
- warming up surface water, making it less hospitable to fragile aquatic life

Homeowners can take action on their own property to protect our local water quality from the impacts of run-off. Here are some measures for you to consider:

SLOW it **DOWN**

Reduce the volume of rain entering the stormwater system by capturing it and releasing it more slowly.

Install a rain barrel at each downspout. Save water for a sunny day. Run a soaker hose to your garden. Move the soaker hoses around periodically to reach different areas of the garden. Empty the barrel regularly so it's ready to fill up the next time it rains.

SOAK it **up**

Allow more rain to soak into the ground by increasing permeable areas.

Make a rain garden- a planted depression that collects runoff from roofs and driveways, and allows it to soak into the ground.

Plant native trees and bushes. A healthy urban forest provides a canopy that helps filter, cleanse and absorb rain water.

Consider permeable paving which allows rain to percolate through and soak into the ground.

Keep it **CLEAN**

Avoid releasing pollutants (pet waste, lawn fertilizer, fuels, carwash effluent and other pollutants).

- Pick up dog waste
- Build a pet waste composter
- Wash your car at a carwash, not in the driveway.
- In winter, put your driveway on a low-salt diet.
- Spread only natural fertilizers.

RAIN: an ecological approach to stormwater management is a Green Communities Canada program, delivered in Northwestern Ontario and the Lake Superior Basin by EcoSuperior Environmental Programs. For more information about upcoming events visit www.ecosuperior.org and www.slowrain.ca or call (807) 624 2140 or toll free 888-301-5253.





Rain Barrel Assembly, Operating Instructions and Maintenance

Components include

- 1) Filter basket (fits into the six inch hole in the lid)
- 2) T-shaped overflow adaptor (slides into the top-side 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch hole)
- 3) Overflow hose (slides over the open end of the T-shaped adaptor)
- 4) Male to male adaptor (nipple) with tapered thread on one end and straight thread on the other end.
- 5) Spigot (threads onto the straight thread of male to male adaptor)

Once the spigot is connected to the straight thread on the nipple, the tapered thread of the nipple is lined up with the 7/8 inch hole at the bottom-side of the barrel. The spigot is used like a handle on a screwdriver. Turn clockwise to insert tapered thread of the nipple into the bottom-side hole until the nipple is snug with the side of the barrel.

Installation

- 1) Ensure the ground beneath the rain barrel is firm and level
- 2) Cut the downspout 4 to 6 inches above the top of the barrel
- 3) Install a short flexible pipe or a downspout elbow onto the cut downspout to direct water into the top of the barrel
- 4) Keep remaining portion of downspout, so it can be reconnected when the rain barrel is winterized.
- 5) Run the overflow either back into the drain or into a nearby garden. Additional lengths of 1.5 inch sump pump overflow hose can be purchased at most hardware stores.



Operating Instructions

Simply place the rain barrel filter basket under a downspout and connect a garden hose to the bottom ball-valve spigot. Some people prefer to elevate their rain barrel by placing them on cement block to increase pressure resulting from gravity. One end of the T-shaped overflow adaptor is closed and can be opened to allow a second rain barrel to be connected in series.

Maintenance

Maintenance includes clearing debris from the filter basket on occasion. Before winter the rain barrel should be disconnected, emptied, the bottom ball valve left in the open position and the rain barrel should be rinsed with a garden hose. Storage indoors is recommended but if left outside it must not contain any fluids. Frozen fluids could damage the rain barrel and/or bottom ball-valve.

Winter Storage

Upon arrival of frost, drain the barrel and outlet hose completely and place the barrel upside down to avoid freezing and cracking during winter. Storing indoors is also recommended.