In Summary

A rain barrel collects and stores rain (stormwater runoff) from rooftops. By temporarily holding off water during a rain event, a rain barrel decreases the amount of water running across lawns and roadways where it picks up pollutants. The stormwater then flows into storm drains which empty directly into local waterways, and can cause erosion and pollute drinking water. Collected rainwater can later be used to water lawns, gardens, potted plants, window boxes, and street trees.

We need to stop stormwater pollution at the source.

Remember:

Only Rain In the Storm Drain

Contact Information

To report a spill during regular business hours call the Public Works and Water Resources Department at 302-366-7000.

After hours call 911 or contact the DNREC Emergency Response Hotline at 1-800-662-8802.

Or go to the city's website, expand the "How Do I?" drop down menu, click "Report Spills or Discharge Concerns" and report the spill.

For waste disposal and recycling questions call the Delaware Solid Waste Authority Citizens Response Line at 1-800-404-7080.

For general stormwater program information contact the Stormwater Program Coordinator at 302-366-7000 or visit our website at:

http://www.newarkde.gov/237/NPDES-Stormwater-Program

The City of Newark
Public Works and Water Resources Department
220 South Main Street
Newark, DE 19711

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Stormwater Best Management Practices Fact Sheet Series

Rain Barrels

This brochure has been prepared to educate the general public about the benefits of rain barrels, and how they can build their own, in order to protect water quality in storm drains, and ultimately, the creeks and tributaries in Newark.

How does a rain barrel help stormwater pollution?

Water that flows into the storm sewer system does not get treated at the waste water treatment plant. It flows through a series of pipes and discharges either directly or indirectly into our creeks and tributaries. To minimize the potential for water quality problems, we need to work together to clean up our stormwater at the source. One way to do this is through rain barrel use.

Rain barrels capture water and store it onsite until it can be used to water gardens, plants, etc. This water is prevented from running across the land and taking pollutants into our storm drains, plus they help to recharge our groundwater supply when you reuse the accumulated water.

Rain Barrel Hardware List

Overflow:
1-1/4" Adapter Insert MPT
1"- 2" Metal Hose Clamp
1-1/4" Sump Pump Hose
Silicone sealer and/or teflon tape

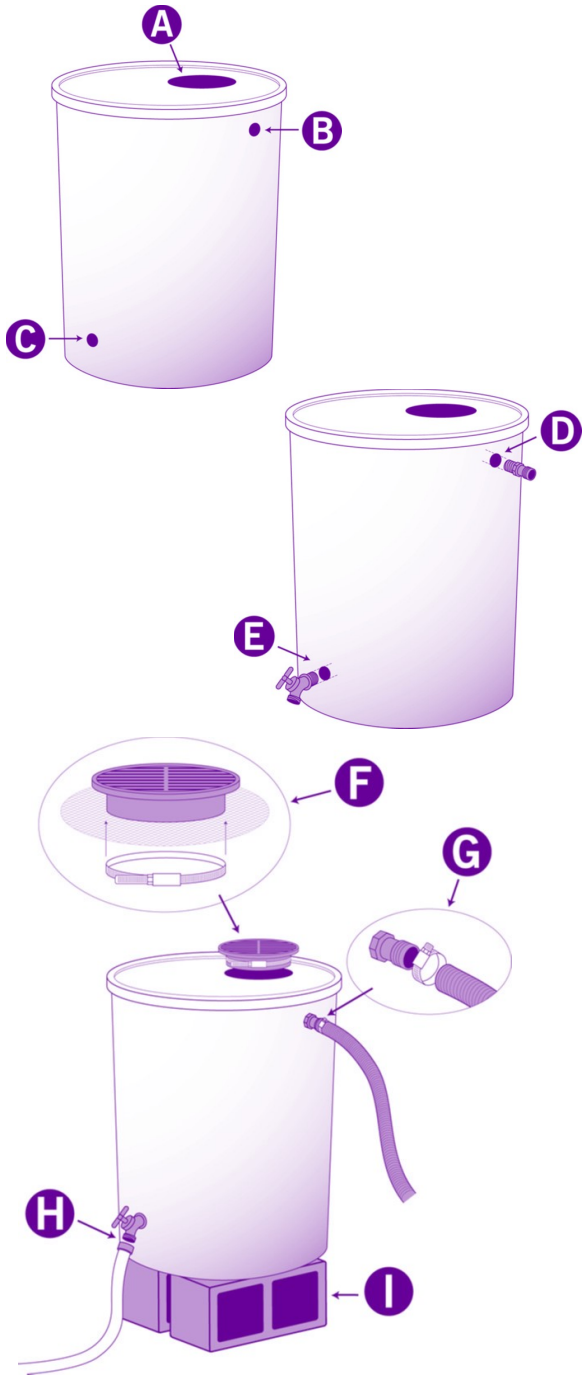
Inlet Grate:
6" NDS Green Grate
6-7" Metal Clamp #10
12" square Window Screen

Hose Bibb/Sillcock:
Brass Sillcock/Hose Bibb 3/4" MPT
Silicone sealer and/or teflon tape

Notes: Be sure to use/drain your rain barrel at regular intervals, and before the winter season. Keep rain gutters clean of debris to prevent mosquito eggs and larvae from entering your barrel. Check connections routinely; clean debris from the Grate Assembly when needed. Locate barrel away from foundation to prevent basement/crawl space flooding.

Rain barrel diagrams and instructions courtesy of RAINSCAPES, a partnership between the Potomac Conservancy and the Montgomery County Department Of Environmental Protection.

How To Build Your Own



How To Build Your Own

A—Cut a hole in the top of your barrel for the inlet drain. The hole should only be large enough to allow the grate to rest on its flange. Cut the hole using either a RotoZip drill or carefully measure and mark the area to be cut, start a pilot hole, and cut out the marked area with a jigsaw.

B—Use a 1-1/2 inch keyhole bit to cut a hole to accommodate the 1-1/4 inch Overflow Adapter. You may need to rasp or sand the hole somewhat larger to screw in the Adapter. Expect a snug fit.

C—Use a 15/16 inch drill bit to cut a hole for the 3/4-inch Brass Hose Bib.

D—Insert the threaded end of the Overflow Adapter Insert into the overflow hole. Keep the adapter straight as you screw it into the barrel.

E—Insert the threaded Hose Bibb into the already drilled hole. Keep the hose bibb straight as you screw it into the barrel. You should apply a bead of silicone caulk or wrap teflon tape around the bibb before inserting it to ensure a tight, drip-free connection.

F—Use the larger #10 Metal Clamp to firmly attach the window screen to the bottom of the Green Grate. Tighten the clamp with a screwdriver or nutdriver. Place the Inlet Assembly into the barrel.

G—Slide the smaller size 1"- 2" Metal Hose Clamp over the barbed section of the Adapter Insert. Slide one end of the Sump Pump Hose over the Adapter and use the Hose Clamp to firmly attach the Hose to the Adapter.

H—Attach a garden hose or soaker hose to your Hose Bibb.

I—Use cinderblocks or similar pavers to elevate the completed Rain Barrel off the ground to ensure easier access to the Hose Bibb, and to facilitate gravity-fed drainage. Locate barrel away from foundation to prevent basement/crawl space flooding from overflow.