



Why worry about stormwater?

Water from rain or melted snow that runs along the gutters on your street seems to disappear down the storm drains. But do you know where the water goes from there?

Well, it does not go to a wastewater treatment plant, and pollution is NOT taken away from the water. This rain water, or polluted runoff comes from things we do every day such as pet waste, dirt, litter, yard waste, chemicals, and auto fluids like oil and gas to name just a few.

Anything that enters the stormwater system is discharged untreated into the waterways we use for swimming, fishing, hunting and providing drinking water.



Everyone is in danger!

It is common knowledge that human beings and all living creatures rely on water to survive, and good quality water. Polluted water is not drinkable, it leads to different sicknesses or worse, it smells bad, it looks bad, and we cannot use it.

Consequences are terrifying!

Stormwater is a key cause for water pollution. Entering our streams, it leads to unhealthy water environment including contamination of drinking water, prohibition on swimming and fishing, injury to aquatic life, and increased flooding.



***Can you prevent stormwater pollution?
Yes, YOU can help to our gorgeous community!***

Several tips to keep local bays and waterways clean:

- Always pick up pet waste and dispose it out properly;
- Do not dump anything down storm drains. Be sure to clear away leaves and debris;
- Avoid using fertilizers and chemicals in your garden frequently;
- Wash your car over your lawn or gravel, do not let soap and detergent go to the creeks and streams. You can also take your car to a commercial car wash where wastewater is either recycled or treated.
- Keep your car well-maintained and fixed. Make sure NO spills leak from your vehicle;
- Do not dispose household hazardous waste in storm drains, sinks or toilets.
- Walk, bike, or share a ride when possible. Air pollution from cars contaminates rain and end up in the streams and creeks. By the way, it will help you to reduce heart problems and benefit your health!



**WALK.
BIKE.
RIDE.**

TOP 5 reasons to have rain barrel at home!

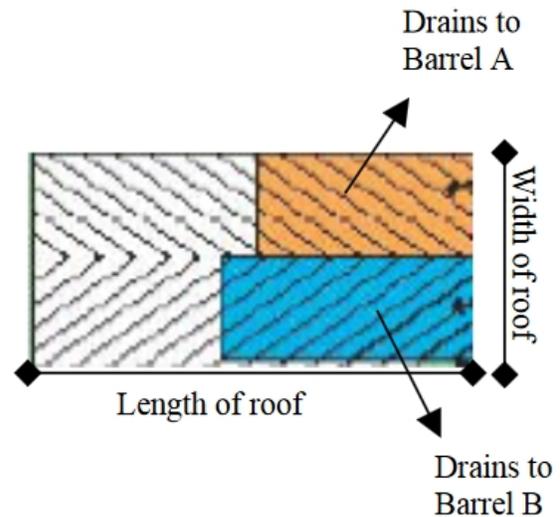
- ✓ *PROTECT* our lakes, rivers, and streams from run off pollution;
- ✓ *CONTROL* moisture level at the foundation of your home;
- ✓ *PERFECT* un-chlorinated water for your plants;
- ✓ *SAVE* on your water bills;
- ✓ *PRESERVE* water in the summer when the demand is the highest.
 - How to build rain barrel for \$40
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0y0BmEFUcs>;
 - Rain barrel irrigation system <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDFFkCFb-MA>
(this video is a good tool if you want to save money on your gardening water bill)
 - How to make your own rain barrel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9PmdV-usAA>;

☀ Interesting to know

For every inch of rain that falls on a catchment area of 1,000 square feet, you can expect to collect about 600 gallons of water.

Roof catchment area = total square footage of house + extension of eaves
 $\text{ft}^2 = \text{length} \times \text{width}$

So, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of rain on an average roof = 3 full rain barrels. Ideally, you should have a rain barrel for each downspout of your home.



DETENTION VS. RETENTION PONDS

Managing stormwater is a necessary part of our healthy and green community. Detention and retention ponds act to slow water flows preventing areas from flooding as well as the play a big role in improving the quality of stormwater.

What is the difference between detention and retention ponds?



It's
simple!



Detention pond is a normally dry reservoir where stormwater collects and is temporarily stored. The water slowly drains into a receiving channel usually within 24 hours.

Retention pond is a permanent body of water, which fluctuates with precipitation and runoff and allows fine sediments to settle to the bottom of the pond.

Feel concerned? Know more by watching this educational video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjPfLhJbdc0>