

Assembly & maintenance

Rain barrel assembly

Rain barrels can be assembled and installed quickly and easily. For step-by-step instructions, visit www.athensclarkecounty.com/stormwater.

Rain barrel maintenance

- We recommend placing mosquito netting in the barrel's drain covers. Check the netting periodically for tears and replace as needed.
- Add larvicide briquets to prevent mosquitoes.
- Empty and clean the rain barrel at least once a year to avoid algae. You can wash the barrel with water or a dilute bleach solution.
- Reapply silicone gel around the spigot if leaks occur.



Safety

- Rain barrel water is non-potable. Do not drink water from your rain barrel. It may contain pollutants from your roof.
- Avoid getting rain barrel water on the edible parts of plants. Do not use it to wash produce.

Contact us:

Stormwater Management Program
706-613-3440

stormwater@athensclarkecounty.com

For more information, visit our website at www.athensclarkecounty.com/stormwater, or find us on Facebook or Twitter.



www.facebook.com/stormwateracc



www.twitter.com/accstormwater



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Transportation & Public Works Department
Stormwater Management Program
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Stormwater Solutions: Using a rain barrel



Rain barrels are an easy, low maintenance way to conserve water and reduce water pollution. These barrels reduce runoff and store rain captured from roofs for use in gardens or lawns.

This brochure will provide information and resources for building, installing, and maintaining a rain barrel.





What is stormwater?

Stormwater is precipitation that runs off impervious surfaces, such as roofs, driveways, and roads. As stormwater flows over these surfaces and into storm drains, it collects pollutants including animal waste, motor oil, and sediment. Storm drains carry stormwater and pollutants directly to streams and rivers, making it the top contributor to water pollution in the United States. Stormwater can harm aquatic life and hinder recreational and commercial waterway use.



Rain barrel perks

Environmental benefits

- **Reduce water pollution.** By reducing runoff, rain barrels help keep our waters clean.
- **Reduce erosion and sedimentation.** Less runoff means less soil washing into our waters.
- **Conserve water.** Rain barrels help save water.



Personal benefits

- **Lower your water bill.** Using rain water caught by your barrel for outdoor uses, such as car washing or watering plants, instead of treated city water can save you money.
- **Water year-round.** Rain barrel water is not subject to Athens-Clarke County watering restrictions, allowing greater flexibility in lawn and garden watering during droughts.

It's raining barrels

The Athens-Clarke County Stormwater Management Program offers several fun and convenient ways to get your own rain barrel.



Free rain barrel workshops

We offer rain barrel workshops throughout the year. Like us on Facebook, sign up for our newsletter, or visit our website to see when our next workshop will take place. Registration required.

Roll Out the Barrels

Roll Out the Barrels is an annual event cohosted by Stormwater and the Water Conservation Office to raise funds for the Green School Program. Enjoy an evening filled with food and music, and bid on rain barrels decorated by local artists.

Host a special workshop

Contact us to schedule a rain barrel workshop event for your group. Available to local community groups, garden clubs, church groups, schools, and homeowner's associations.