

The rain barrel on display at Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District was built by Cole Musial of Avon Lake, Ohio. Cole is a member of the Avon Lake Boy Scout Troop #334 and worked with the members of the Eaton Township Storm Water Management Committee to design, construct and place the barrels in strategic locations in an effort to heighten public awareness and education. This was his project for his Eagle Scout designation.

Schild's IGA in Eaton Township allowed Cole to place a barrel in the front of their store. 84 Lumber in Eaton Township, Aquatic Technologies in Columbia Township, Cole's family and the Eaton Township Storm Water Management Committee members contributed to the project by donating their time, materials or money to the project.

The final barrel that he constructed will be used also for public awareness and education at the Eaton Township Town Hall where it will supply water to a rain garden which will be constructed during the Spring of 2009.

**For more information on rain barrels or rain gardens, contact:**

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# RAIN BARRELS



*RAIN.....*

*From the skies*

*To your barrel*

*To your garden!*



## **RAIN BARRELS**

### **What is a rain barrel?**

A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores rainwater from downspouts and rooftops for future use watering lawns and gardens. Using a rain barrel is a great first step to healthier rivers and lakes!

Generally, a rain barrel is made using a 55-gallon drum, a piece of PVC pipe, PVC fittings, a screen basket to keep insects, leaves and debris out, and other materials found at most hardware stores.

### **Why use rain barrels?**

They irrigate your lawn and garden during summer months when approximately 40% of household water is used for lawn and garden maintenance. A rain barrel collects and stores water for those times that you need it most—during the dry summer months. Using rain barrels can potentially help homeowners lower their water bills, while also improving the vitality of plants, flowers, trees and lawns.

The use of multiple rain barrels (either connected together or on multiple down spouts) provides even greater storage capacity for watering your plants and reducing storm water runoff.

A wonderful way to complement your rain barrel and increase your property's ability to absorb runoff is through a rain garden.

### **Supplies Needed To Build A Rain Barrel**

55 gallon drum with spigot on the bottom  
You can usually find a second hand food grade barrel from \$20-\$30.  
2" uniseal grommet  
1 flexible plastic pipe to connect to your down spout and route water to strainer  
2 cinder blocks  
2 PVC street elbows (2")  
1 PVC pipe (4' x 2")  
1 skimmer/strainer basket  
You can find the skimmer/strainer baskets at a pond or pool supplier.  
1" metal banding (pipe strap) large enough to wrap around the barrel  
Screws to attach the strap  
Wood slats or wooden pallets to make the wood slats from.

### **Tools Needed To Build A Rain Barrel**

Hole saw  
Cope saw or hack saw  
Tin snips  
Screw driver  
Marker/pencil  
Tape measure

### **Constructing Your Rain Barrel**

Construction of the rain barrel is fairly simple. The spigot which is on the bottom of the barrel will be used as the point to attach a water hose and needs to be at the front of the barrel when you sit it on the cinder blocks.

On the top of the barrel you will need to cut a hole large enough to allow your skimmer/strainer basket to sit in. Make sure you don't cut it too large as the basket will then fall through. The hole needs to be towards the back of the top portion of the barrel. Your down spout is cut just above the height of the barrel and flexible piping is attached to the end. The other end is then placed in the top hole of the barrel so the water will be directed into the strainer basket.

You will need to use your hole saw to cut a 2" hole in the side of the barrel for an overflow pipe to be installed. Place the uniseal grommet in this hole before you put the wooden slats around your barrel.

After you have the wooden slats around your barrel, you will cut a 4" piece of the 2" PVC pipe and place into the grommet. You will then put one of the PVC street elbows on this piece pointing downward where the next piece of PVC pipe will be used to direct the overflow down and through the last street elbow which you should have facing away from the barrel and your home.