

For Your Consideration: Rain Barrels

Harvesting rainwater using a rain barrel helps supplement irrigation. Storing rainwater also helps reduce stormwater runoff, which can lead to reduced levels of pesticides and fertilizers in our water.

The water savings from using stored rainwater rather than municipal or well water can be substantial over a period of time. A rain barrel can also help reduce the amount of water that may settle around the foundation of your home.

Uses for collected water:

- Connect to a soaker hose (with the pressure-reducing washer removed)
- Fill a watering can and hand-water plants, flowerbeds and gardens
- Keep your compost bin moist
- Rinse off gardening tools
- Fill the bird bath

How much rainwater can I collect?

A typical ½ inch rainfall will fill a 50 to 55 gallon barrel. Figure about a half gallon of water per square foot of roof area during a 1 inch rainfall. A 2,000 square foot roof can collect about 1,000 gallons of water (accounting for about 20% loss from evaporation, runoff and splash).

For more information see www.rainbarrelguide.com.

Rain Barrels vary in style and cost, visit your local home improvement store or nursery to find the one that best suits your home!

Below are examples of rain barrels. The barrels shown below range between 53 – 60 gallons in capacity and they are screened to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs.



This information is being provided as a public service by the City of Lebanon Utilities, Water/Wastewater/Storm Water Department. If you have questions or concerns please contact us at (765) 482-8843.