

The Program

During an average rainstorm (1" in 24 hours) more than 700 gallons run off the roof of a typical home. Some of this water runs off the property into the nearest storm drain and into the nearest stream. In an effort to improve the water quality and habitat of Bowie's 10 (ten) local streams, the City is encouraging residents to install at least 150 rain barrels throughout the community by 2012.

Where to get a Rain Barrel

The ideal time to install a rain barrel is in the spring after the last frost. Rain barrels are available commercially for \$100+ online and at certain retail stores. Significantly less expensive rain barrels are available from the Bowie Lions Club (301-262-2665) or by attending a local rain barrel workshop throughout the Washington D.C. area.

Rain Barrel Maintenance

With just a little maintenance, your rain barrel can serve you for many years! Monthly, clear any debris that may be blocking the downspout entry point and check to make sure there are no leaks. Be sure to completely drain the rain barrel in winter and turn it upside down to avoid any cracks from the freeze-thaw process.

Installation

Place the barrel at least 15" above the ground on leveled cinderblocks. Be sure to level the barrel before it fills with water. A full 55-gallon rain barrel weighs over 400 pounds!

Register Your Barrel

No matter how you get your rain barrel, please register it with the City. We just need your name, address, and the number and volume (gallons) of rain barrel(s) you have hooked up. You can:

Call 301-809-3047

E-mail twright@cityofbowie.org

Write

Department of Planning and
Economic Development
Bowie City Hall
15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716
Attn: Tiffany Wright



To Make a Rain Barrel

Making a rain barrel can be inexpensive and fun. Below is a list of items needed, and links to websites with detailed directions are below. There are many videos available through a basic internet search that will walk you through the process.

Basic Materials & Tools

- A 55-gallon drum/trash can
- 3.5' vinyl hose (3/4" x 5/8")
- Grate, screen, or colander
- PVC male pipe adapters
- Female garden hose bib
- 3" vinyl gutter elbow
- Waterproof sealant
- Teflon Tape
- Mosquito Control Dunks
- Drill or hole saw
- Router, jig saw, or coping saw
- Measuring tape

For assembly instructions and more information:

- <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/ed/rainbarrel.html>
- http://www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/water_cons/rainbarrel.pdf
- <http://www.epa.gov/region3/p2/make-rainbarrel.pdf>
- http://www.cwp.org/Resource_Library/Center_Docs/Residential/rainbarrelgarden.pdf

Background

The water quality and habitat of Bowie's streams are threatened by stormwater runoff. This runoff can cause erosion that destroys in-stream habitat and can deliver excessive sediment, nutrients, bacteria and trash to the Patuxent River and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

Placing a rain barrel under your gutter's downspout is an easy way to intercept stormwater runoff from your roof. The non-potable water collected during rain storms will not enter streams and can be used to water plants, wash the car or fill the birdbath. This is particular useful in periods of drought.

In fact, a rain barrel can save homeowners as much as 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months when up to 40% of household water use is for lawn and garden watering. Rain barrels help Save the Bay, conserve water resources, and save homeowners money.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.cityofbowie.org/GreenBowie

301-809-3047
TTY: 301-262-5013

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Bowie Rain Barrel Program



City of Bowie

**Planning and
Economic Development
Department**

*Alternate versions of this brochure are
available upon request.*

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