

Monthly Stormwater Tip – May 2015

Make Yourself a Rain Barrel

During the most common rain event, where 1 inch of rain falls, the roof of a house may drain over 600 gallons of water across the shingles, into the gutters and down through the downspouts. This [stormwater](#) is often discharged onto an impervious material, i.e., concrete, asphalt, or a stone bed. An alternate and preferred method would be to discharge the water from the downspouts to a **rain barrel**.

Rain barrels help reduce the volume of runoff that reaches an impervious surface by storing it for later watering purposes or for release during times when the ground is not saturated. By capturing this water and releasing it when it is not raining, the amount of water directly entering local streams through [runoff](#) can be greatly reduced. It also provides for the first flush cleaning of the pollutants that are within the first inch of rainfall falling from a roof.

You can learn to make a rain barrel by attending a free workshop on Sunday, May 17 from 2-4 pm at Media Borough Hall. Register online at www.crcwatersheds.org.