

Catch the rain that would have washed away!

Rain Barrel Facts

Stormwater Benefits

Your rain barrel will help slow runoff and encourage infiltration.

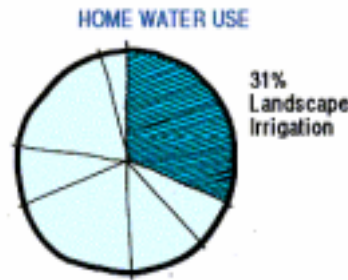
- ◆ Rooftops, roads, parking lots, driveways, and even compacted soils are impervious surfaces.
- ◆ In a pristine area, even an additional 10% of impervious surface area alters the natural rainfall runoff pattern and has the potential to damage sensitive ecosystems.
- ◆ Infiltration, allowing the water to soak into nearby soils, will recharge groundwater supplies by using a more natural water cycle path.



Water Conservation Benefits

Your rain barrel will help conserve water supply resources.

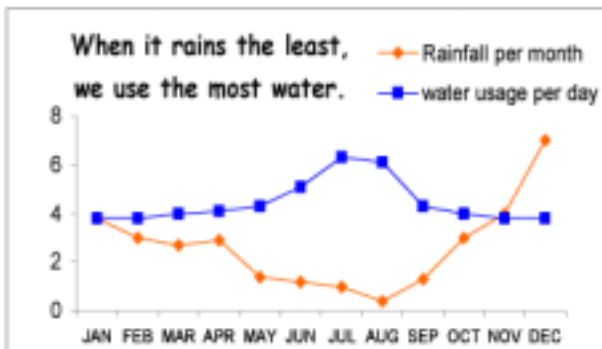
- ◆ Water usage increases in the summer by 30%. This is due to increases in outdoor water use such as lawn watering, flower and vegetable garden watering, car washing, and pavement cleaning.
- ◆ Your water supply is unique to your location. Residents of Kitsap County rely upon rainfall to fill surface water reservoirs and underground aquifers, also known as groundwater.
- ◆ The Puget Sound region experiences natural seasonal dry periods where only 20% of the annual rainfall occurs from May to September.



- ◆ By reducing your demand from established water supplies during the dry summer months, you are helping the environment.

How Effective is a Rain Barrel?

The Puget Sound region is a maritime climate with cool, rainy winters and mild warm, but dry, summers. The annual average rainfall throughout the area will vary.



Average Annual Rainfall

Bremerton 52"	Sequim 16"
Shelton 65"	Olympia 51"
Port Townsend 21"	Seattle 38"

How much water is shed from the average-sized (1,200 square feet) roof in one year?

If you live in Bremerton, it will be 35,000 gallons. If you live in Sequim, it will be 17,000 gallons.

How much rainfall is needed to fill a typical 55-gallon rain barrel?

The typical home with a roof area of 1,200 square feet has four downspouts, each collecting from an area of about 300 square feet. A rainfall of only 0.3 inches will fill the rain barrel.

If a 55-gallon rain barrel is placed at the bottom of each of 4 downspouts of a 1200 square foot roof, how many times will they fill up?

If you live in Bremerton, from May 1 to September 30, each barrel may fill up about 15 times.

Managing Your Rain Barrel During the Growing Season and Winter

Waterwise gardening with the rain barrel:

Rain patterns show regular rainfall events occur during April, May and June, just when vegetable gardens and perennial beds are being established. A waterwise approach is to water annuals and perennials with rain barrel water and mulch heavily to retain moisture during the dryer months of July and August. However, don't despair, rain showers can occur in July and August to refill the barrel.

Increase the capacity of rainwater storage:

You can connect more than one rain barrel together at each downspout. Raising the barrels off the ground by placing them on cement or wooden blocks will ease access to the faucet.

Managing heavy rains:

It is essential to consider the impact of heavy winter rains on your drainage system. An overfull barrel has the potential to cause erosion around your home. Your rain barrel should always have an overflow spigot on the side, near the top.



Some overflow management options include:

- ◆ Connect a hose to the overflow spigot and direct the hose away from your foundation. Allow a minimum hose length of 2 feet for crawlspace and 6 feet for basements.
- ◆ Disconnect the rain barrel from the downspout during winter and return the drainage system to its original configuration.
- ◆ Leave the outlet faucet open and set a splash block under it. Now the rain barrel is an extension of the downspout drainage system. Remember to close the faucet when you desire to fill the rain barrel.
- ◆ Whatever the solution, design the overflow system to encourage infiltration of the water into the ground.



WARNING:

Do not use rain barrels for drinking, cooking or bathing.
If moss killer has been used on the roof, let a few rain events bypass the barrel before collecting water.

Protect Water Quality

Do not send overflow from your rain barrel across parking areas, driveways, septic tank drainfields, bare soil, or storage areas for pesticides or heavy equipment.

Help Keep Pollutants out of our streams and Puget Sound!

For more information, please visit the City of Bremerton's website at www.ci.bremerton.wa.us

