



SLOW STORE SOAK

Installing a Rain Barrel

Why use a rain barrel?

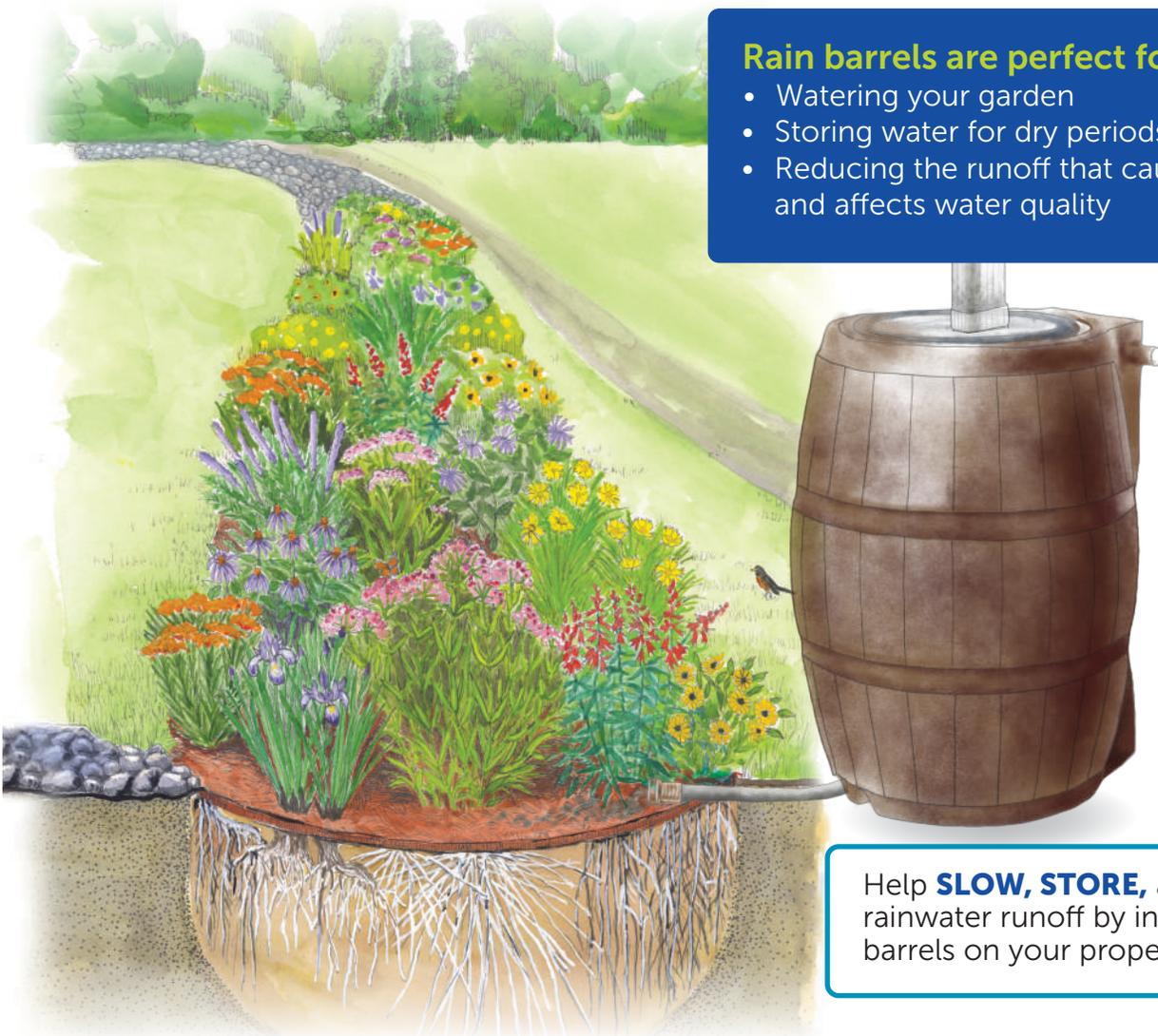
Rain barrels collect rainwater from eavestroughs and downspouts and store it for later use, easing pressure on our stormwater systems and reducing the amount of pollution washed into our waterways. Rain barrels can reduce flooding effects up to 28% and are considered one of the most cost-efficient options for reducing storm runoff on your

property. They can also reduce municipal water usage during hot weather or drought, saving you even more money!

Rain barrels can be attached to or placed under any downspout, including on rural or urban residential properties and on farm buildings, sheds, and barns.

Rain barrels are perfect for:

- Watering your garden
- Storing water for dry periods
- Reducing the runoff that causes floods and affects water quality



Help **SLOW**, **STORE**, and **SOAK** rainwater runoff by installing rain barrels on your property!

Installing a rain barrel

You can make your own rain barrel or purchase one from your local hardware store, garden centre or www.rainbarrel.ca.

Make your own: Use a 55-gallon plastic drum with a cover, or a heavy-duty garbage can. Check second-hand sites or local restaurants to source an inexpensive barrel! Be sure to rinse it well with vinegar and water to remove any previous contents. You'll also need a 2x3" flexible downspout adapter, a 3/4" black iron 90-degree elbow and several other pieces of hardware. Find instructions to make your own www.instructables.com/How-to-make-a-rain-barrel-1.

Connect Your Rain Barrel: Choose a convenient downspout and create a level base (two cinder blocks will work). Elevating the barrel helps build water pressure and makes it easier to fill a watering can. With rain barrel beside it, mark your downspout at the appropriate height and cut your downspout to size. Attach a downspout adaptor to your barrel. Hook up garden hoses to the spout and overflow adapters if desired, and route the overflow hose to a permeable area such as a flower bed, rain garden, swale, or lawn. Alternatively, a soaker hose can also help to passively spread the overflow water over an even greater area.



Remember:

Collected water must be used up between storm events or the rain barrel cannot do its job!

- 1 55-gallon plastic drum with a cover
- 2 2x3" flexible downspout adapter
- 3 Overflow valve
- 4 Watering valve

Consult a professional for site-specific concerns. **Call before you dig:** www.on1call.com.



More resources

Follow the QR code to find more sustainable drainage resources and ideas for your property.

