

# Why Use a Rain Barrel?

## Save it *From* a Rainy Day!

Landscaping and outdoor uses account for approximately

# 50%

of summer water usage.

By using a rain barrel to water grass, bushes, trees, and plants, you can conserve water.

### Drainage

Rain barrels divert stormwater runoff from storm drain systems.

### Drought

In times of drought, the stored water can be used to maintain your garden.

Using natural rain water instead of potable (drinking) water reduces the stress on city reserves and infrastructure.

### A Shrinking Resource

Collecting rain water, instead of allowing it to run into sewer systems, recharges the groundwater, which is where most of Ames water originates.

# Helpful Tips

## Caring for your Rain Barrel

- Place barrel on flat, sturdy ground.
- Use an absorbent footing, such as rocks landscaped with bushes or other deep-rooting plants, to absorb overflow and reduce puddles.
- Empty barrel monthly to discourage algae growth.
- If mosquitoes become a problem, use a mosquito dunk to kill larvae.
- Rinse out thoroughly once or twice each season.
- Store indoors during winter.
- Clean gutters to reduce debris and prolong screen effectiveness.
- To water directly from barrel, keep elevated for easy gravitational flow of water.

# Rain Barrel Program

*Capture Stormwater ...Conserve Your Water*

*Brought to you by:*

**smart**  
**WATERSHEDS**  
FOR CLEAN RIVERS AND STREAMS



**smart**  
**WATER**  
A COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION



## Free Water!

For further information, contact:  
Public Works Department 515-239-5160 or  
Water and Pollution Control Department 515-239-5150

Receive \$50 off a new Rain Barrel. *More details inside.*

## Background Information

The City of Ames Public Works and Water and Pollution Control Departments have created a Rain Barrel Cost-Share Program to promote water conservation and the capturing of stormwater.



Rain barrels are effective ways to store water in times of plenty and prepare for dryer weather.

### Other Benefits Include:

- Reduces the velocity of water entering local rivers and streams
- Stores high-quality water for lawn and garden use
- Directs runoff away from building foundations
- Reduces water and sewer bills

## What is a Rain Barrel?

Rain barrels are systems that collect and store rainwater from rooftops for watering lawns and gardens.

### How It Works



- Place rain barrel under downspout, directing water into barrel.
- Water is collected and stored.
- Use of a screened system over the opening in a barrel helps keep out leaves, debris, and discourages growth of mosquito larva.
- Most have either an overflow hose or spigot by which to attach a hose to relieve water on demand to landscaped areas.

## Rebate Requirements

The City of Ames is offering rebates to those who purchase rain barrels **on or after May 15, 2009.**

- This program is available only to Ames residents and business owners.
- The City will provide \$50 in cost-share on a one-time basis per household or business to put toward the purchase of a rain barrel.
- Complete rebate claim form within 30 days of rain barrel purchase and provide detailed receipt.
- Barrel must be installed prior to application for rebate.

**To acquire a Rebate Claim Form,** please contact one of the following:

**Public Works Department**  
515-239-5160

**Water and Pollution Control Department**  
515-239-5150

[www.cityofames.org](http://www.cityofames.org)

**Rain Barrels contain water not suitable for human or animal consumption.**