

# **CITY OF JOLIET RAIN BARREL PROGRAM**

Rain Barrels are making a comeback...Rain barrels have been used for centuries to collect and store rain water for survival purposes, where the only usable water available was rainwater. In today's troubled economy, rain barrels are making a comeback for economical as well as ecological reasons.

Rain Barrels are designed to sit under your roof's downspout and collect rainwater from your roof for use in watering your lawn, flowers, vegetable gardens, indoor and outdoor plants or washing your car. Rainwater can be used for a variety of purposes other than human consumption (filtration needed for drinking).

## **Why Should You Collect and Store Rain Water?**

- **Conserve drinking water resources.** 30%-40% of our daily water use is for lawn and garden care. Harvesting rain water decreases the amount of drinking water used to water lawns and plants - Saving Money.
- **Decrease water and sewer bills.** Less water will be needed from the municipal water supply thereby reducing your water bill – Saving Money.
- **Reduce storm water management issues.** Storm water runoff is the leading type of residential non-point source pollution[<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/qa.html>] entering local waterways.
- **Utilize higher quality water for plants.** Unlike treated water that is softened with dissolved minerals and chlorine, rainwater is naturally soft. The water stored in a rain barrel is better than municipal water for washing cars and watering indoor and outdoor plants.
- **Reduce possible yard and / or basement flooding.** Rain barrels collect water that could otherwise contribute to the flooding of your property.

**One inch of rain on a 1,000 square foot horizontal roof yields 600 gallons of rainwater.**

The City of Joliet, Department of Public Utilities, is giving a white, 55-gallon barrel to City of Joliet Water and Sewer Customers FREE of charge on a first-come, first-serve basis. Rain Barrels are inexpensive to modify and install. Details on parts needed to assemble a rain barrel and instructions to assemble are available at the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/region3/p2/make-rainbarrel.pdf>

Please call the Department of Public Utilities at (815) 724-4230 to get your white, 55-gallon barrel. You will be asked for the account number on your City of Joliet water bill.

Rain Barrels are available FREE of charge on a first-come first-serve basis.

**Thank you for doing your part!**

# RAIN BARREL DECORATING CHALLENGE



Do You Love Having A Rain Barrel but Hate the Way It Looks ?

## Then take the Rain Barrel Decorating Challenge!

Decorate your Rain Barrel and send us a picture, we will select one rain barrel picture a month to be displayed on the City of Joliet website as "BEST ON THE BLOCK".

You can decorate your new rain barrel or give your old one a new face-lift. All rain barrels must be covered so as to be child-proof and mosquito proof.

Entries must include a photo of your decorated rain barrel, your name and contact information. Feel free to include a sentence or small paragraph describing your design.

Please email your entry to: [agrooms@jolietcity.org](mailto:agrooms@jolietcity.org)

**BE CREATIVE\*\*\*MAKE IT A FAMILY PROJECT\*\*\*HAVE FUN**