

Environmental Stewardship

- Talk to your neighbors about non-point source pollution and discuss how your community can reduce pollution flowing into waterways.
- Develop environmentally responsible habits, such as shopping with reusable bags, using chemical free fertilizers, bagging dog waste, recycling motor oil, and planting native vegetation.
- Support a WV watershed group by volunteering at a clean-up event or organize your own litter cleanup!



What is Nonpoint-Source Pollution?

Nonpoint source pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the water moves, it carries away natural and human-made pollutants, which ultimately get deposited into West Virginia lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A HOMEOWNER?

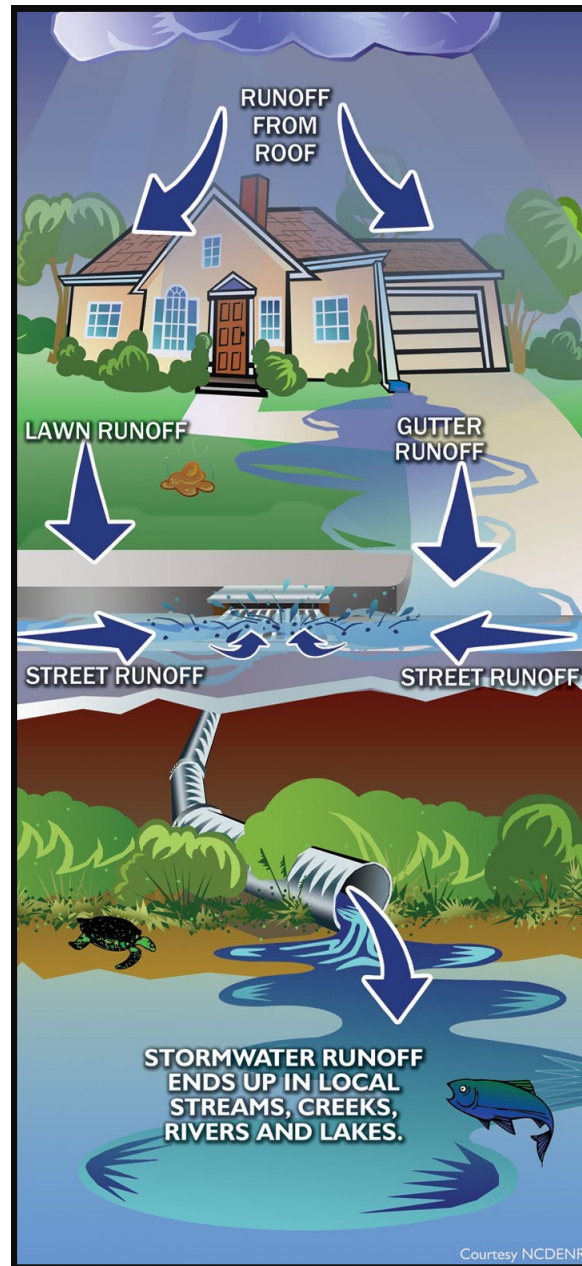
Scan the QR codes below to learn more about WV watershed groups, urbanization and stormwater runoff!



Watershed Groups



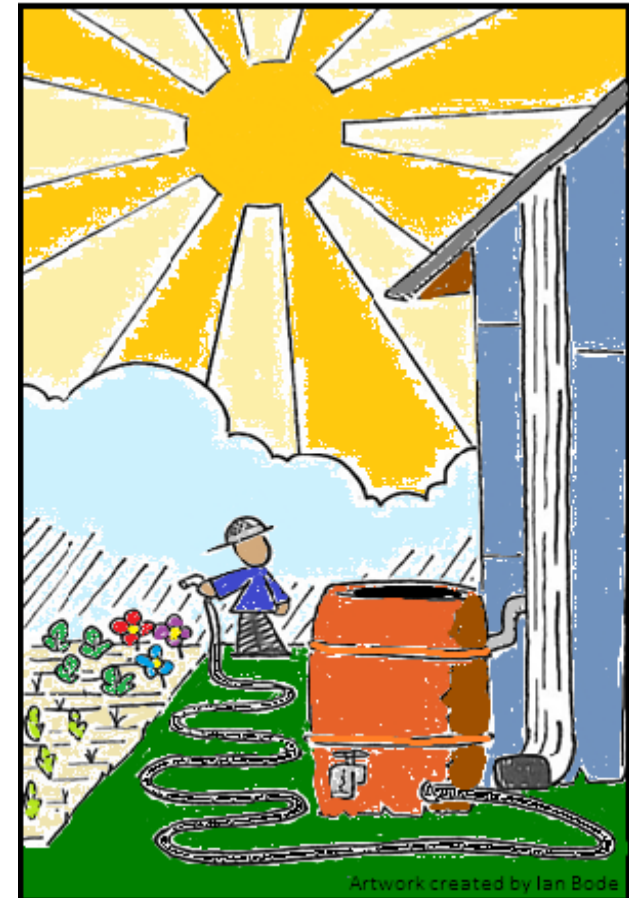
Stormwater Runoff



Courtesy NCDENR

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How to Build and Install a Rain Barrel



Installing a rain barrel reduces the amount of stormwater that flows from your property by capturing and storing the water from your roof. This stored water can be used for many conservation measures, such as watering your lawn, garden, and indoor plants!

This brochure will lead you through the steps to install your own rain barrel.



West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection

Rain Barrel Parts Kit

Kits utilizing a **diverter**, like shown below, can be purchased from many local hardware stores and online.

Earth Minded Universal DIY Rain Barrel Parts Kits Include:

- Diverter Dam (Flexi-Fit Diverter)
- Winter Cover
- Threaded Seal (2)
- Drain Assembly
- Spigot - Shut Off
- Hose Seal (2)
- 3pc Hole Saw Set
- Fill Hose
- Screws
- Instructions
- Do Not Drink Sticker



Rain barrels allow you to harvest rain water, which is free of chemical additives commonly found in tap water. Conserving this water and utilizing it for outdoor chores is an environmentally friendly option for your plants and soil and allows you to save water while reducing your water bill.

How the Diverter Works

There are many ways to install a rain barrel, but using a **diverter** keeps your foundation dry, downspout intact, and efficiently directs water into the barrel.



- You can install without disassembling your downspout –just drill one hole into the downspout.
- The diverter catches water as it flows down the downspout and directs downspout as normal.

- When the barrel is full, the water does not enter the barrel, but continues down the downspout as normal.



- This diverter offers advantages over conventional top fill rain barrels that commonly overflow and flood with heavy rain, requiring permanent modifications to your downspout.



Diverter kits can be used with nearly any container that holds water!



DID YOU KNOW?

Safety First

Remember, Safety First!

How to Select a Barrel:



The barrel must be structurally sound and made to hold liquid. Used olive or pickle barrels can often be repurposed as a rain barrel. Blue 55 gallon drums also work well, but are not food grade.

1. The water from the rain barrel should never be used for drinking, cooking or other potable uses.
2. Your rain barrel must be secured on a firm, level surface. A full 55-gallon rain barrel weighs over 400lbs!
3. Barrels with screw top lids allow for easy cleaning and winterization.
4. Winterize your barrel each winter season to maintain integrity of the parts.

The rainfall of one inch within a 24 hour period can produce more than 700 gallons of water that runs off a typical roof!



DID YOU KNOW?



Used Olive Barrel