

*Did you know 1 inch of rain falling on 1000 square feet of roof can yield 600 gallons of water? Why let this free water run away! You can collect and use it using rain barrels!*

## About the barrels

- ◆ Provider: Barrels are provided by Upcycle Products Inc.
- ◆ Size: 55 Gallons
- ◆ Colors: Terra Cotta, Black, Blue, and Gray.
- ◆ The rain barrels are made from food quality high density poly ethylene barrels that were previously used for food.
- ◆ The barrels have a screw on top with one inch holes, screen mesh to keep out debris and mosquitoes, an overflow male hose connection, a drain valve and a connection to attach additional barrels.
- ◆ The shapes will vary depending on what barrels are available for upcycling at the time of order.
- ◆ For more information about the barrels, please check the company's website at [www.UpCycle-Products.com](http://www.UpCycle-Products.com) or call 815-735-9583.

## Disclaimer

With proper installation, maintenance and use, your rain barrel should function properly. The City of Valparaiso assumes no liability for the installation, maintenance, property damage or injury associated with your rain barrel.

## About the program

- ◆ Rain barrels are for sale to City of Valparaiso residents (live within city limits and pay stormwater fees) for \$25 each.
- ◆ Only one barrel per household at reduced price (\$25 each). Additional barrels may be ordered at regular price (\$59 each).
- ◆ Only 300 barrels with reduced price (\$25 each) are available for this year's program. Once the quota is met, barrels may be ordered at regular price (\$59 each).
- ◆ Non-city residents please order through Porter County's program.

## Order & Delivery

### Order:

1. **Order online** at [www.UpCycle-Products.com](http://www.UpCycle-Products.com). On the right hand side of homepage is a section for order forms. Click on "Indiana Municipal Programs" then "Valparaiso".
2. **Call** UpCycle Products at 815-735-9583.
3. **Mail** order form to UpCycle Products. Order form is available on Upcycle Products website.

**Payment:** Check or charge is acceptable. Checks should be made payable to UpCycle Products. If credit card is used, **an additional fee of \$2.50** will be charged.

**Delivery:** Rain barrels will be delivered to home within 5-7 business days from the order date. Delivery fee is included in the price.

Questions on this program can be directed to City of Valparaiso MS4 Program at 219-462-1161 or [MS4@valpo.us](mailto:MS4@valpo.us).

## City of Valparaiso Rain Barrels For Sale - \$25



### MS4 Stormwater Program

City of Valparaiso  
166 Lincolnway  
Valparaiso, IN 46383  
Phone: 219-462-1161  
Email: [MS4@valpo.us](mailto:MS4@valpo.us)  
Website: [www.valpo.us/MS4](http://www.valpo.us/MS4)

Spring has sprung...

# Rain Barrels - A great addition to every home

...in Valparaiso

## What is a Rain Barrel?

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains and streams.

## Rain Barrel water using tips

- The water can be used to water your flowers, trees, shrubs, and lawn, wash your car, rinse tools or muddy boots, clean off siding, and hose down the driveway.
- Due to lack of research data, rain barrel water is not recommended for watering fruit or vegetable gardens.
- Do not drink, cook or bathe with water from your rain barrel. Do not use the water to wash fruits or vegetables prior to consumption.

## Decorating Rain Barrels

If you want, you can paint or decorate your rain barrels to make them more attractive. Below are pictures of some rain barrels decorated by school students at the past NWI Earth Day rain barrel decorating contest.



## Benefits of Rain Barrels

### 1. Saves You Money

A rain barrel can save most homeowners about 1,300 gallons of water during the peak summer months. Saving water not only helps protect the environment, it saves you money and energy (decreased demand for treated tap water).

### 2. Helps Reduce Runoff & Pollution

Rainwater stored in rain barrels helps reduce peak volume, velocity and the amount of stormwater runoff reaching lakes and rivers. Less amount of runoff also carries less amount of pollutants to water bodies.

### 3. Conserves Water Supply Resources

Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer. Rainwater used from rain barrels helps reduce the amount of water used from underground aquifers.

### 4. Better for Plants and Gardens

Rainwater stored in rain barrels is a naturally soft water and devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals. For this reason, plants respond very well to rainwater. After all, it's what plants in the wild thrive on!

### 5. You'll be an inspiring example of environmental stewardship.

And we thank you for it!

## Rain Barrel instructions

- It is a good idea to put your barrel up on a flat, stable platform (concrete blocks, landscaping blocks or other solid support). The added height increases the water pressure and allows you to put a bucket under the spigot to get water. A full 55 gallon rain barrel weighs over 450 pounds.
- Locate and install your rain barrel to keep kids safe. Keep your rain barrel lid tight at all times to prevent children, animals and insects from entering or falling in.
- Measure and cut the downspout. Use the existing elbow or a flexible spout attachment to direct the water to the top of the barrel. The end of the downspout should be cut 6-8 inches above the top of the barrel. Downspouts can be cut with a hacksaw. Flexible spouts can be purchased at hardware stores or home centers.
- Install an overflow hose to direct water away from your house foundation for times of high rainfall. Diverters are available that can easily switch the downspout from filling the barrel to normal operation once the barrel is full.
- In the fall, empty your rain barrel and then leave the valve (spigot) open. Remove the cap on the lower fitting. Leave the barrel in place and in the Spring just close the valve and install the cap.
- More questions on how to use rain barrels can be directed to UpCycle Products at 815-735-9583.