

Rain Barrels

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rainwater from your roof, this water would otherwise runoff into storm drains. A rain barrel can be a 55 gallon plastic drum that has been retrofitted to serve the purpose of collecting and storing rainwater. Rain barrels are relatively easy and inexpensive to make.



Rain Barrels provide many benefits to watershed residents and the environment, some of which include;

- It is a free supply of soft water that can be used to water your lawn and/or garden during dry times.
- Helps homeowners save money on their summer water bill.
- Rain water is actually better than treated water for your soil, lawn and garden.
- Rain barrels help decrease the amount of runoff in storm drains during summer rain storms.



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Resource:

Water Use in Your Home, What You Need to Know to Use Less and Spend Less (1996). Retrieved from [http://www.wsask.ca/Global/Water%20Programs/Water%20Conservation Conservation Booklet 2010.pdf](http://www.wsask.ca/Global/Water%20Programs/Water%20Conservation%20Booklet%202010.pdf)

Green Tips and Tricks for Summer



Green Tips and Tricks

- Watering lawns and gardens in the early morning and evenings will help to reduce evaporation.
- Ensure that sprinklers avoid impermeable surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks, this will help decrease runoff into the storm water system.
- Watering lawns and gardens slowly will help to ensure that water is absorbed and runoff is limited.
- Consider planting native vegetation, this will further limit the amount of water required during the summer.
- Hand watering plants will ensure that water is directly delivered to the root zone.
- Use a broom to remove debris from paved surfaces instead of washing with water.
- Consider making or purchasing a rain barrel. A rain barrel will ensure that rain water can be collected and used to water gardens or lawns.
- Install a clothes line and air dry your laundry during the summer.

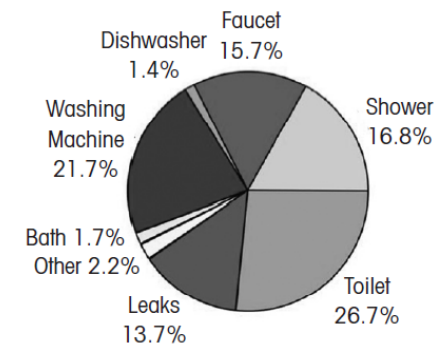
- When cutting your lawn consider leaving the grass clippings on the grass. These clippings will provide nutrients to the soil and help to retain water in the soil, saving you time, money and energy.
- Consider filling a kiddie pool and giving children water toys instead of running the sprinkler. Sprinkles can use a significant amount of water in a short period of time.
- Consider purchasing or making a compost bin. Compost bins are a great way to utilize nutrients that may otherwise be wasted when sent to the landfill. Compost also limits fertilizer costs and helps retain moisture in the soil, Composting is a great way to re-purpose potential waste and save money.
- Never flush pharmaceuticals, hygiene or personal care products down the toilet, they can clog up you septic tank and pollute rivers and streams.
- When at a cabin or lake continue to recycle, it does not take much effort to have a couple bins.
- When fertilizing your lawn ensure that you are using the correct concentrations so that over-fertilization does not occur.
- When upgrading major appliances consider re-placing old models with energy star rated models.

- Only wash full loads of dishes in your dish washer, the same goes for laundry and washing machines.
- Replace and install low flow shower heads and faucet aerators. Consider taking shorter showers and turning off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Consider replacing old conventional toilets with dual flush or low water usage toilets.
- Ensure that leaking taps are fixed promptly.

And most importantly...

Take the time to think about the water usage in your home and make adjustments when and where possible.

Average Indoor Water Usage



Residential water accounts for 21% of water usage in Saskatchewan.

Residential usage increases by 50% in the summer months.

50% of water used outdoors evaporates before serving any purpose.