All about Rain Barrels

The basics:
- Rain carries pollutants from roofs, driveways, streets, and yards into storm drains and lakes (including Fountain, Albert Lea, Chapeau, Pickerel, and Goose)
- Rain barrels allow for the collection of some of that water for later use
- Stored water can then be used to water lawns and plants
- Reduces pollution reaching local lakes and saves on your water bill!

What to do:
- Set up rain barrels to collect water from downspouts or rain chains
- A hose can be attached to the spigot to make it easier to water plants
- Some rain barrels have overflow valves or attachments to connect to other barrels
- Keep screen securely closed to keep out children, bugs, debris, and sunlight

Winter Care:
In order to prevent cracking from temperature changes, be sure to leave the spigot open in the winter.
Use up or drain the water, and disconnect from your gutter downspout.
To store: flip upside down, cover with a tarp, or store in a garage/basement.

Did you know?
1 inch of rain provides 0.6 gallons of water per square foot. So if your barrel receives water from a 100 ft$^2$ area, a 1-in rain event will give you 60 gallons of water!

If each household in Albert Lea used a rain barrel to collect from a 100 ft$^2$ area, that would capture 16 million gallons of water a year!

Rain water is better for plants and soil! It is highly oxygenated, and free of the salts, inorganic ions, and fluoride compounds contained in tap water.
Get yours today!

Available at the Shell Rock River Watershed District

$67.45

If you live in the district you are eligible for a $10 cost share

www.shellrock.org
214 W Main St., Albert Lea
507-377-5785

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Will mosquitoes breed here?
A: Using a barrel with a fine mesh lid (like the ones offered at Shell Rock) prevents this.

Q: Won’t it have low pressure?
A: Yes, but you can increase water pressure by elevating the barrel on cinderblocks. Using a soaker hose is also effective.

Q: Is the water safe for drinking?
A: No, this water isn’t safe for human consumption without filtration and treatment.

Your local resources:

www.cityofalbertlea.org

www.co.freeborn.mn.us

www.shellrock.org
214 W Main St., Albert Lea
507-377-5785

www.freebornswcd.org

Sources and more information:

EPA:
www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-rain-barrels

How Stuff Works:
www.howstuffworks.com/rain-barrel.htm

Rain Barrel Guide:
www.rainbarrelguide.com/

Lake Superior Streams:
www.lakesuperiorstreams.org/citizen/rainbarrel.html