

Waukesha COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND LAND USE

May 19, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jayne Jenks, 262-896-8305

Problem Solving with Rain Barrels

You don't have to be an engineer to use a rain barrel—but you can be. Paul Day, an engineer for the City of Waukesha, uses a rain barrel at his home to keep what would normally be a dry area of his yard watered. The area was difficult to keep moist and keep plants growing due to a large tree overhead. To solve the problem, Day installed a rain barrel to capture rainwater from his roof. By connecting a soaker hose to the barrel, the rainwater is slowly released to his otherwise dry planting beds.

Day didn't install the barrel with the thought of saving money—even though he has. He installed the barrel to save time and be more water efficient in his landscape. The barrel is always turned on, so it continuously feeds water through the soaker hose to the dry areas. The hoses can be covered with mulch and hidden from sight to provide water without anyone knowing they are there.



Lawn and garden watering can make up to 40% of a homeowners total water use. By using a rain barrel, homeowners can save an average of 1300 gallons of water a year. This water would otherwise run off into local rivers and streams, carrying pollutants and adding to floodwaters. This is also water that doesn't need to be pumped from our depleted groundwater supplies.

To learn more about rain barrels, visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/cleanwater and check out the rain gardens/barrels tab. Help conserve water—one barrel at a time.

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