

# Recycle The Raindrops

## Did you know?

- ⌚ The Great Lakes contain about **20%** of the Earth's fresh water.
- ⌚ According to the Chicago Department of Water Management, the city purifies **nearly one billion gallons of water per day** for the Chicago area, and less than one percent of that water is renewed.
- ⌚ Fresh water accounts for **less than 2%** of the world's water supply.
- ⌚ Water shortages are becoming a recurring problem in many parts of the world, including the U.S.
- ⌚ On a global level, over 1.2 billion people do not have ready access to clean water.
- ⌚ 2.4 billion people lack basic sanitation, exacerbating the spread of water-related diseases.
- ⌚ 5 million people die of water-related illnesses each year.

## What you can do

- ⌚ Recycling rain with **rain barrels** is a way you can help relieve the stress on our waste treatment facilities, reduce water consumption, and control flooding.
- ⌚ Over 40% of our purified household water goes to lawns and gardening. **Rain barrels offer a greener way to keep plants green.**
- ⌚ Your house's gutter system normally drains rainwater from your roof into the ground. A rain barrel collects that water for later use for watering plants, washing your car, or any other use.
- ⌚ A lot of water can be collected with a barrel! A roof that is **1,000 sq. ft.** in size collects about **600 gallons** of water for every inch of rain that falls.
- ⌚ **Interested in getting your own rain barrel?** Go to the **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District** website at [www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org)



**recycle the raindrops**<sup>TM</sup>  
teaching water conservation, one drop at a time...

website: [www.recycletheraindrops.org](http://www.recycletheraindrops.org)



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