

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District  
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For Immediate Release  
April 14, 2015

*Rain Barrels Now Available  
At the Cayuga County Conservation District*

A summer rain can be refreshing and beneficial when it is falling on your lawn and garden. But when it is running off your roof, into your downspouts and into the street, it can pick up and carry pollutants and trash into the nearby streams and rivers. Years ago, our grandparents used cisterns to collect and use rain water, but in the past 50 years, we have forgotten how to make use of this free resource. One inch of rain falling on a 10 by 10 section of roof can deliver 62 gallons of clean, soft water to a barrel and it will keep 62 gallons of water out of the local storm sewers, streams and lakes.

Rain barrels have been used for centuries to collect the runoff from roofs and elevated surfaces. Placing a rain barrel at the bottom of a down spout, a person can easily collect 50 gallons of water, even from heavy dew. Connecting barrels together, you can collect hundreds of gallons of free water to use in your garden or landscape. Once you begin, you will find many ways to use the water. And as you use it, you will slowly be releasing the water into the environment and keeping it out of the storm sewers. If you live in a town or village where the storm water runs through the sewage treatment plant, your rain barrels and gardens could be saving you tax dollars, as well as helping the environment, and saving you money on your water bill! It's a win-win-win!

The SWCD now has 55 gallon rain barrels available for purchase at the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District at our office located on County House Road in Sennett. We are available Monday - Friday from 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM. Call 315-252-4171 for more information, or visit our website: <http://www.cayugaswcd.org> and click the "Products" tab.