



**Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago**



Visit
**mwr.d.org/
rain-barrels**
to order a rain
barrel at a newly
reduced rate
today!

STEAM ACTIVITY WORKSHEET

Collect Rainwater With a Rain Barrel

Rain barrels are a type of green infrastructure that capture rainwater from your roof and save it for when you need it. By keeping this water out of the sewer system, rain barrels can also help prevent sewer overflows and flooding. You can recycle rain water with a rain barrel and use it to wash your car, water your lawn, or clean work boots and tools. Rain barrel water is naturally free of chlorine, lime, and calcium and some gardeners swear their plants prefer it. However, since rain barrel water is runoff from your roof, do not drink it!



FILL IN THE BLANKS

Use the summary above and glossary below to fill in the blanks.

rain barrel
green infrastructure

recycle
STEAM

sewers
environment

1. The students were introduced to a career in microbiology at the _____ fair.
2. You can water your garden without turning on your outdoor water hose by using a _____.
3. When you _____, you produce less waste that may harm the _____.
4. A medium-sized oak tree can help prevent flooding by absorbing 2,800 gallons of rainfall per year. It is an example of _____.
5. The local _____ carry both sanitary sewage and stormwater from homes, businesses and street drains.

GLOSSARY

Green Infrastructure – Green infrastructure (GI) is a stormwater management tool that is designed to capture water by slowing it down, storing it and allowing it to soak into the ground before it enters the traditional sewer system.

Recycle – Recycling is a way to save the environment by reusing existing materials, reducing pollution, and protecting natural resources.

Sewer – A sewer is an underground pipe that carries away water and waste.

STEAM – STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) is a fresh approach to teaching students about these subjects and career paths.

