



# Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group

[www.millelacswatershed.org](http://www.millelacswatershed.org)

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## TOPIC OF THE MONTH - APRIL 2016

### Capture Rain with a Rain Barrel

As development around our lakes and rivers increases, so does the threat posed by stormwater runoff. Impervious surfaces like roofs, driveways, and even lawns don't allow water to penetrate and be absorbed into the soil. As the water runs off it can pick up pollutants like lawn fertilizer, vehicle oil and fluids, pet wastes, grass clippings, sediments, and even bacteria and viruses. These are then carried to the lowest points on the landscape – usually a lake, stream, or wetland. Rain barrels can capture stormwater before it picks up those pollutants, protecting your property and surface waters.



**What is a Rain Barrel?** A rain barrel is any type of container that is used to catch water flowing from a downspout. Stormwater runoff is reduced by capturing and storing the roof runoff.

**What are the benefits of using a Rain Barrel?** A rain barrel will capture stormwater runoff that might reach lakes, river, or wetlands, protecting water quality. Captured water can be used on lawns and gardens. Soil erosion at the outlet of a downspout is eliminated.

**Discount Vouchers!** The Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group is offering Rain Barrel Discount Vouchers for interested landowners in the watershed. Vouchers are good for \$ 50 off the purchase price of a rain barrel and are accepted at Isle

Hardware Hank & Rental in Isle and Agnew Hardware Hank in Onamia. Simply visit the store, choose the barrel design that you like, and place your order. The barrel will arrive shortly and you can begin capturing and recycling rain water. Vouchers are available by calling the MLLWMG at (218) 927-6565, or by visiting one of the participating stores.

For more information visit <https://hort.uwex.edu/articles/rain-barrels/>. This handout from the University of Wisconsin Extension Service has information on the benefits of rain barrels, installation, and maintenance.

