- What is the Rain Barrel program?

  Sarasota County Water Resources has implemented a rain barrel water conservation program by making rain barrels available for purchase by Sarasota County residents for $37.00 each. This cost includes a blue 55 gallon plastic barrel, spigot assembly, and 7% sales tax. Rain barrels can be purchased after the monthly workshops put on by the UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension Service. Payment for the barrels must be by cash or check.

  To register for the workshop, go to http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu/ or call the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for the County Extension Office. It is not mandatory to attend the workshop in order to purchase a barrel.

- How much does it cost?

  $37.00 each. The cost includes the price of the barrel, the spigot assembly, and 7% sales tax. Payment for the barrels must be by cash or check and will be accepted by County staff after the class.

- What is the money for?

  The money will be used to replenish the supply of barrels and supplies.

- What are the barrels made of?

  Recycled, food-grade polyethylene plastic barrels will be used. Only barrels previously used for food-grade materials will be used in order to minimize potential liability issues relating to chemical residuals.

- What color are the barrels and can they be painted?

  The barrels are blue and can be painted using spray paint such as Krylon Fusion or Rust-oleum Universal which adheres to plastic.

- Will my homeowners association object to placing a rain barrel in my yard or will my neighbor complain?

  You may want to check with your HOA before you purchase a rain barrel. If you experience any complaints from your neighbors, the barrel can be painted to match your house color or painted with an artistic scene.

- When are the training classes?

  UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension Service is currently holding monthly classes at various locations throughout the County. Barrels will be available for purchase after the class. To register go to http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu/ or call the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for the County Extension Office.

- Are the rain barrels delivered or do I have to pick them up?

  You will have to pick up the barrel using your own transportation. Please note that they measure approximately three feet in height by two feet in diameter and **may not** fit in a compact car.

- How much water does the rain barrel hold?

  The barrels have a capacity of 55-gallons, and measure approximately three feet in height by two feet in diameter.

- Can I get more than one?

  Yes; rain barrels can be placed anywhere there is a downspout and they can be put in a series. They are not for resale for profit.

- Are there restrictions on what the water can be used for?

  Yes, the water is considered non-potable or **not for drinking**. Rain water is naturally soft water and devoid of minerals, chlorine, and fluoride and is ideal for non-potable uses such as irrigating plants in vegetable and flower beds, indoor and outdoor container plants, and for cleaning household windows and washing cars.

- What are the benefits for using a rain barrel?

Rainwater harvesting can reduce the use of potable water and yield cost savings on water and wastewater utility bills. Rain barrels help to reduce stormwater runoff by diverting and storing runoff from impervious areas such as roofs. This decreases the undesirable impacts of runoff that would otherwise flow into receiving waters. The use of rain barrels is a sustainable practice that also serves as an educational tool for water conservation.