



SAVE THE RAIN!



We have a water shortage. That may sound strange because you may remember the feeling of having too much rain during the winter months. Where did the water go? The problem is very little of it stayed anywhere near where it fell. A lot of it went down the drain.

If you watch old Westerns you sometimes see rainwater barrels in the background. Today rain barrels are making a comeback. You may see rain barrels in the background in modern movies.

Besides installing a rain barrel to catch water to water your lawn and wash your car, can you think of other ways to use water more wisely at home?

Saving water indoors

- Take shorter showers and use less water in the bathtub.
- Turn the water off while you brush your teeth or wash your hands.
- Remove the cover from your toilet tank, add food coloring until the water in the tank is a dark color. Wait 30 minutes (without using the toilet). If any of the dye has entered the bowl in that time, your toilet is leaking. **Fixing leaks saves up to 7,000 gallons of water per year.**

Saving water outdoors

- Try to select plants suited to your area that require less water. Native plants provide food, water and shelter and also conserve Ohio's diverse wildlife.
- Do not hose down your driveway or sidewalk and water the lawn slowly to allow water to soak into the soil.
- If you have a swimming pool, cover your pool or spa to reduce evaporation.

Van Buren High School students illustrated this rain barrel. Their design won third place in the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership's 2013 contest.



USE THE NEWS:

How can you convince your friends, classmates, parents and neighbors to conserve water? Create a promotional campaign for conserving water. Design a full-page newspaper ad for your promotion.

Thanks to these Rain Barrel sponsors:

