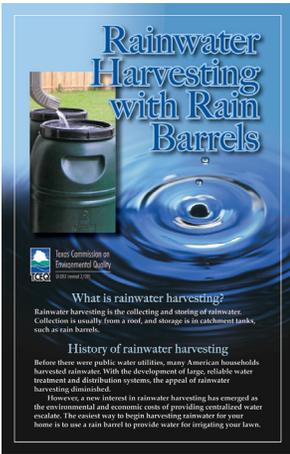


FREE Rainwater Harvesting Resources Available



The TCEQ's Take Care of Texas campaign has several new additions focusing on rainwater harvesting. The Take Care of Texas program—which offers Texans tips that save money and reduce their environmental impact—now has a guide to rainwater harvesting with rain barrels. The guide and print ads are available for downloading on the <www.takecareoftexas.org> Web site.

Rainwater Harvesting with Rain Barrels, GI-383, is a brief and easy-to-understand guide to

help Texans learn about the basics of rainwater harvesting so they can start using a rain barrel at home for outside purposes.

The free, ready-to-go print advertisements available from the Take Care of Texas Web site encourage others to get involved in water conservation. Four different ads are available in various sizes.

To download these and other free water conservation resources, visit <www.takecareoftexas.org>.

Planning a Community Event? Don't Forget Your Green Events Toolkit!

The Green Events Toolkit was developed through a partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and The Coca-Cola Company. This free guide aims to help individuals and organizations promote recycling and reduce litter at community events. The toolkit focuses on litter prevention and recycling and is intended to help organizations reduce the amount of litter generated at community events and to recover recyclable materials from the waste stream.

The Green Events Toolkit can help you do the following:

- Leave public events free of litter and promote recycling.
- Change individual behavior toward littering.



- Educate the public about recycling.
- Reduce costs associated with event cleanup by eliminating litter.
- Reduce landfill disposal costs and save natural resources by recycling.

You can use the Green Events Toolkit to help promote recycling and reduce litter at all kinds of community events including: fairs and festivals, sports events, and picnics and barbecues.

To download your own Green Events Toolkit, visit <<http://www.ktb.org/programs/green-events.aspx>>.

Conserve Water in Your Lawn and Garden

Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40 percent of total household water use during the summer. To use less water while maintaining a healthy and beautiful yard, try the following tips:

Use Native Plants: Plants that are native to Texas aren't only beautiful; they typically require less water, fewer pesticides and fertilizers, and less maintenance—saving you time and money. The deep root systems of many native plants also increase the soil's capacity to store water and reduce runoff. Native plants also attract a variety of birds and butterflies by providing diverse habitats and food sources.



Try Composting: Yard trimmings make up 20 percent of the waste generated by Texans each year. Instead of throwing them out with the garbage, you can use them as compost. Compost can serve as a soil conditioner that will help improve your garden and reduce your water usage. By using mulch and compost on lawns and gardens, Texans could reduce the need for outdoor watering by 30 percent to 60 percent.

Avoid Over-Watering Your Lawn: Watering too heavily or too often weakens your lawn and causes erosion and runoff pollution. When needed, water one inch, once a week. To



measure, place an empty 6-ounce tuna can on your lawn and stop watering when it is full. Watering in the morning will prevent water from being evaporated by the midday heat.

For more tips to help you keep your lawn and garden healthy while helping the environment, visit <www.yardwise.org>.

After the Flush: New Wastewater Treatment Education Resources

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority has created two interactive media tools that educate the public about the process of domestic wastewater treatment. Domestic wastewater is water discharged from plumbing fixtures, appliances, toilets, baths, clothes washers, and dishwashers.

“Wastewater Treatment” animates the process of a typical off-site domestic wastewater treatment plant. Viewers learn about each step taken in the process during wastewater treatment, from the introduction of influent through the reintroduction of treated water into the water cycle.

To educate the public about on-site treatment of domestic wastewater, The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority created “How a Septic System Works.” Viewers are led through areas of the typical household that serve as the origin of wastewater. The tool also includes the uses and misuses of water-using apparatus in the home. Using a combination of graphics, text, and animation, the interactive tool is a virtual tour of the underground workings of a conventional septic or aerobic treatment system.

For more information, or to view one of these tools, visit <www.gbra.org>.

Save Money, Save Energy



Summer is fast approaching, and keeping your home comfortable during the hot Texas summer can be costly. To keep cool while saving money, try some of these easy-to-do tips:

- Set the air conditioning thermostat at 78 degrees or higher. For even more savings, use a programmable thermostat and adjust the temperature overnight or raise the setting to 85 degrees when you plan to be out for at least four hours.
- Use ceiling fans or portable fans when you are in the room. Moving air feels four to six degrees cooler.
- Turn off or replace lights. Most energy from incandescent bulbs becomes heat. Compact fluorescent bulbs use 67 percent less energy and can last up to ten times longer.
- Clean or replace air filters regularly for efficient air flow.
- Close the drapes during the day to reduce the heat from the sun and keep your house cooler.
- Run your dishwasher, washer, and dryer at night or early in the morning; these appliances give off heat when in use.

For more energy and money saving tips, visit <www.takecareoftexas.org>.

Highlighted TCEQ Publications

Conditional No-Exposure Exclusion for Storm Water Runoff: A Guide for Industries Operating Under the TPDES Multi-Sector General Permit, RG-467, explains the no-exposure exclusion for industries operating under the TPDES Multi-Sector General Permit.

Industrial & Hazardous Waste Annual Waste Summary Instructions, RG-151, offers instruction on how to perform an annual waste summary.

Soil and Groundwater Response Objectives, RG-366/TRRP-29, describes the soil and groundwater response objectives that a response action at an affected property must achieve in order to attain Remedy Standard A and B under the Texas Risk Reduction Program (TRRP).

Stop—You May Not Need to Fill Out Industrial & Hazardous Waste Form, RG-222, guides waste generators on whether they need industrial or hazardous waste I.D. and registration numbers and how to obtain them if they do.

To order TCEQ publications, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications>.

Take Care of Texas Tips

At Home

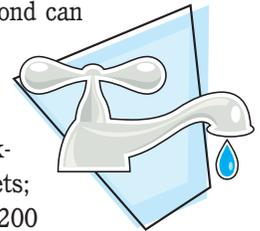
Leave Grass Clippings on the Lawn

Allow grass clippings to remain on the yard after mowing; they can act as a slow-release fertilizer to your lawn while helping to retain moisture in the soil. This reduces the need for watering and could eliminate the need for fertilizer. Plus, it helps keep fertilizers out of storm drains and, as a result, out of rivers, lakes, and bays.

Around the Office Check for Leaks

Fix any leaks you find in office faucets and toilets.

A faucet leaking one drop per second can waste up to 1,661 gallons of water each year. Toilets account for most of the water lost to leaks, and 25 percent of all toilets leak. Use a leak-detection dye tablet to check toilets; otherwise, you could waste about 200 gallons of water per toilet every day.



www.takecareoftexas.org