

## A Trashcan Converted into a Rain Barrel

Ann Arbor residents are eligible for a stormwater credit on their quarterly water bill. Details at [www.a2gov.org/storm](http://www.a2gov.org/storm) or from (734) 994-2666.



Pictured above is a clean, unbroken trashcan retrofitted as a rain barrel. You may find it helpful to take this photo to a hardware store when you purchase any of the following supplies you may not already have at home:

- **A spigot, jamb nuts, and washers** to install near base of trashcan.
- **Window screen** to cover the entire top of trashcan (to prevent mosquito access to water).
- **Downspout elbow** to divert water into the rain barrel.
- **Box cutter** to cut opening in lid and “x” for spigot.
- **Length of hose** to divert water to nearby plants or fill a watering can.

Other considerations:

- In Ann Arbor, trashcans must be stored at side or rear of house. If retrofitted for a rain barrel, trashcans may not be installed at the front of the house and set back at least 15 feet from the front of the house (or obtain a screen variance).
- Rain barrels can freeze, crack, and break in the winter. They are typically removed in winter and re-installed in spring.
- If there are concerns about cats, opossums, etc. sitting on—and possibly falling into—the barrel, it is possible to make a smaller opening on the top and securing the top to the bottom with “zip ties,” twine, or wire threaded through small holes drilled through the lid and base. For extra protection, make sure the screen cloth is secure. Or wrap the screen around the top of the lid as well as underneath. #