

**This is the same sheet hanging below the rain barrel irrigation system outside our house, for passers by who would like more information.**

**Q: Are you making beer or wine, or storing fuel?**

A: No and no. We're capturing rainwater from our roof, which we use to irrigate our garden and yard during dry weather! (East End Brewing Company is at 6923 Susquehanna St.—no competition from us!)

**Q: Why are you doing this?**

A: It's environmentally and economically beneficial. We're keeping less rainwater from going into our combined sewer systems (Pittsburgh's system combines storm runoff and septic/sewer waste), which lessens the overflow that goes into our rivers (along with sewage, polluting them) during wet weather. It also reduces the amount of wastewater that has to be treated, saving taxpayer dollars, and it saves the amount of treated water we use to water our lawn/garden, which saves us a few dollars. The non-chlorinated water is also better for the garden, as chlorine kills many beneficial microorganisms.



**Q: Where can I get rain barrels and additional hardware (Pittsburgh area)?**

A: You can purchase pre-made ones larger than these from Nine Mile Run Watershed Association, or obtain them for free/reduced cost if you live in a designated "study neighborhood." (Contact them to check on this.) You can also learn to make your own, similar to the ones you see here, from classes run by the PA Resources Council (PRC). The PRC classes provide you with the hardware needed for one barrel—you still need to buy your own barrel. If you make your own, you can purchase the barrels for around \$25 each from Penn Barrel Company on Washington Blvd., or you can carpool/truckpool to get several from Jeannette, PA (east of Pgh., about 40 mins. from Squirrel Hill) for \$6 each—Delallo's Italian Foods headquarters gives their used food shipping barrels to Ralph Freger, who warehouses and resells them. You'll want a recycled **food** barrel; don't purchase anything that was used to store chemicals. All the barrels in our yard are from Ralph Freger, and previously had olives in them. Other hardware is available at Home Depot and Lowe's.



**Contact info for the above:**

- Nine Mile Run Watershed Association: <http://www.ninemilerun.org>
- PA Resources Council: <http://www.prc.org>, 412-488-7490, ask to be directed to rainbarrel workshops coordinator (direct line was previously 412-488-7490, x247a—not sure if still current)
- Ralph Freger: (724) 787-0759
- Penn Barrel, Inc.: 412-924-0556

**Q: Where can I learn how to make these rain barrels?**

A: The PRC classes mentioned above are excellent, and there are a number of pages with directions on the internet. Here is one: [www.tylertork.com/diyrainbarrels/construction.html](http://www.tylertork.com/diyrainbarrels/construction.html)

**Q: Why so many barrels?**

A: An average-sized roof in Pittsburgh can actually capture several thousand gallons in one Pittsburgh season--this entire system is around 300 gallons.

Access this sheet at <http://idealisticcoach.com> – look for the "rain barrel info" link on the lower left.