



## What is stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground but runs off into waterways. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil, and over lawns while picking up a variety of contaminants on its way. Polluted runoff degrades our lakes, rivers, wetlands and other waterways. Polluted stormwater can harm fish and wildlife populations, kill native vegetation, foul drinking water, and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant.



## Best Management Practices

BMPs, or Best Management Practices are ways in which we can get involved to reduce stormwater pollution and to manage stormwater runoff.

### Slow it down, Spread it out, Soak it in.

Get involved in conserving our water. Chemung County has clean water, but it is up to us to keep it that way! *Keep our clean waters, clean!*

Find out more at:

<http://www.chemungstormwater.org>  
[www.facebook.com/chemungstormwater](http://www.facebook.com/chemungstormwater)

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Chemung County Stormwater Coalition  
Upper Susquehanna Coalition

## Stormwater and the Home



## Rain Barrels

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# RAIN BARRELS

**A 1,000 square foot roof can produce 600 gallons of water with a 1-inch rain event!** Roof runoff is a key contributor to the stormwater runoff problem. While we cannot shrink the size of our roof, we can collect the water running off of our roofs and reuse it for other activities.



## Stormwater BMPs and Rain Barrels

Rainwater collected in a rain barrel can be used to wash cars, siding, lawn furniture and to water gardens instead of using other water sources.

Rain barrels are easy ways to capture and recycle stormwater to then use for other activities, even to wash the dog!

Rain barrels are a cost-effective way to reduce runoff and stormwater pollution.

How does it work? Barrels are placed near a roof downspout outlet. Cut your downspout at the appropriate height and connect an elbow piece so that water will flow into the barrel.

To calculate your roof runoff footprint: *Take the sq. footage of your roof then multiply that number by .6 to get the approximate amount of roof runoff in gallons. This is for a 1-inch rain event.*

For more information on the care and use of rain barrels visit:  
[www.chemungstormwater.org](http://www.chemungstormwater.org)

