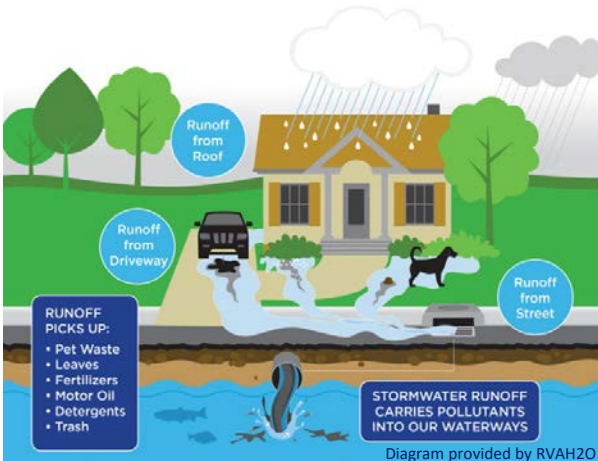


# *Rain Barrel Maintenance*

<b>Every Rain Period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Use the water from the barrel on a permeable surface like a lawn or garden. Direct the overflow to a rocky area to decrease the water's speed and drain it evenly.</li></ul>
<b>Monthly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Remove debris from the filter &amp; make sure the ground is level</li></ul>
<b>Seasonally-Spring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-connect the downspout inlet to the barrel so it may start collecting water</li><li>-Close the spigot.</li></ul>
<b>Bi-Annually-Spring/Fall</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Inspect the downspout leading to the barrel. Make sure the connection is secure.</li><li>-Clean roof gutters</li></ul>
<b>Seasonally-Winter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Disconnect the downspout inlet from the barrel so it does not collect water</li><li>-Keep the spigot open</li></ul>



- **43% of land** in DC is covered by hard surfaces
- Rain gardens soak in **30% more water** than grass
- Rain barrels can save up to **1,300 gallons** of water

For more information visit:  
[stormwater.allianceforthebay.org](http://stormwater.allianceforthebay.org)

- **Barrels shift over time:** Annually re-level the ground under the barrel.
- **Using Water:** Drain your barrel monthly. Long-term sitting water can put pressure on your barrel's spigot.
- Always pick up pet poop
- Use less fertilizer, if at all
- Use a broom to clean your driveway
- Keep waste, oil, soapy water, grass, and leaves out of the storm drain