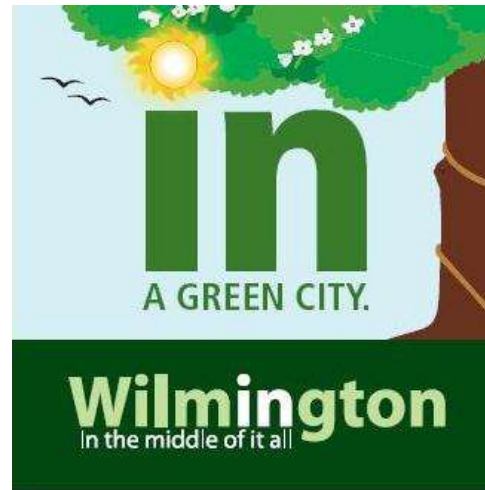




## **GREEN UP YOUR HOME!**

**Tips to having a clean, healthy and eco-friendly home**

# WHO IS THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE DELAWARE ESTUARY?



# # 1 SOURCE OF WATER POLLUTION TO THE DELAWARE RIVER & BAY

Rain or melting snow washes over the land and picks up pollutants and carries these pollutants into storm drains or directly to local streams

- Trash
- Leaky motor oil
- Animal waste
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Herbicides
- Road salt/sand
- Loose soil



# DOES ALL OF THIS LITTLE STUFF MATTER?

According to a 2001 study done by the Pelegrin Research Group, it conservatively estimated that **each month** in LA County, residents contribute to storm water pollution by:

- Walking a dog without picking up the droppings more than 82,000 times
- Dropping cigarette butts on the ground nearly 915,000 times
- Dropping litter on the ground or out a car window more than 830,000 times



## STILL MORE . . .

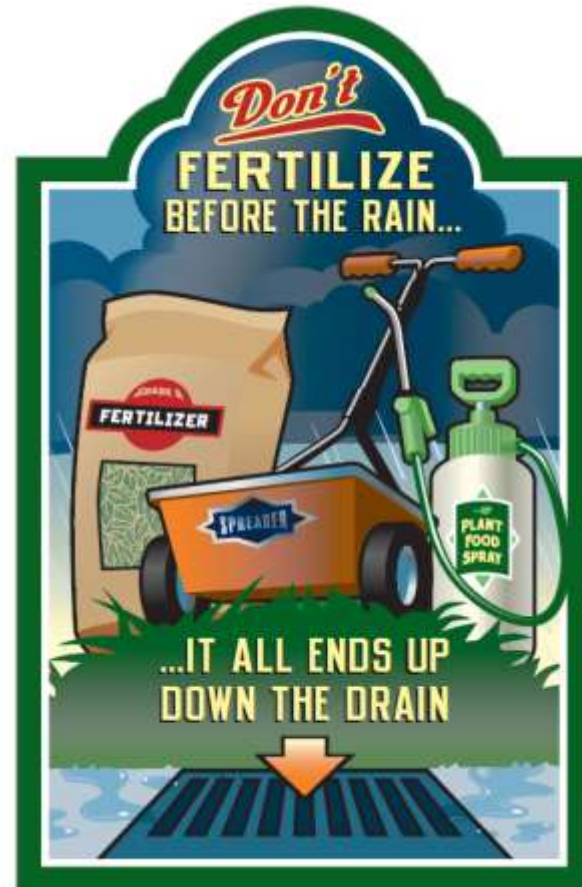
- Throwing something in the gutter or down a storm drain nearly 280,000 times
- Emptying a car ashtray into the street more than 40,000 times
- Hosing debris off a driveway or sidewalk into the street nearly 420,000 times
- Washing off paint brushes under an outdoor faucet more than 130,000 times
- Spraying the garden or lawn with pesticide more than 210,000 times





## FERTILIZERS

- Test your soil first to see if fertilizer is needed
- Use organic, slow release fertilizers
- Never apply before rain





## LAWN CARE

Leave grass clippings on your lawn for a free natural fertilizer.

Compost your leaves and kitchen waste for next years lawn.



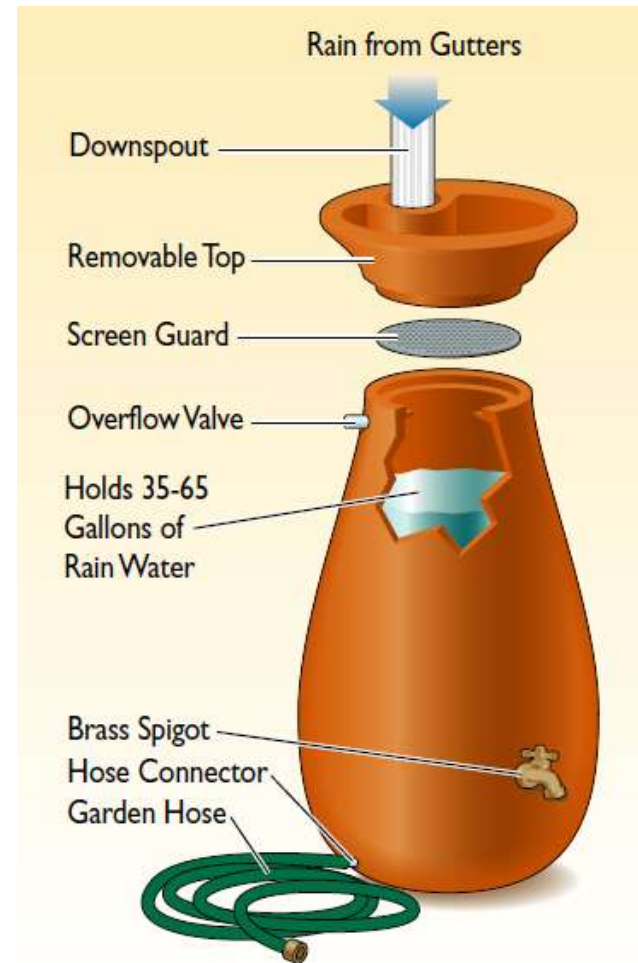


## RAIN BARRELS

or other types of tanks, collect and store rain from rooftops by holding diverted water from gutters and downspouts.

Collected rainwater:

- Lowers your water bill
- Decreases water demand during the hot summer months
- Can be reused to water lawns, gardens, window boxes or trees





Visit our booth!

## RAINWATER COLLECTION



- For a typical 800 sq. feet row home, receiving a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of rain, you could collect 225 gallons of water.



# POROUS PAVEMENT

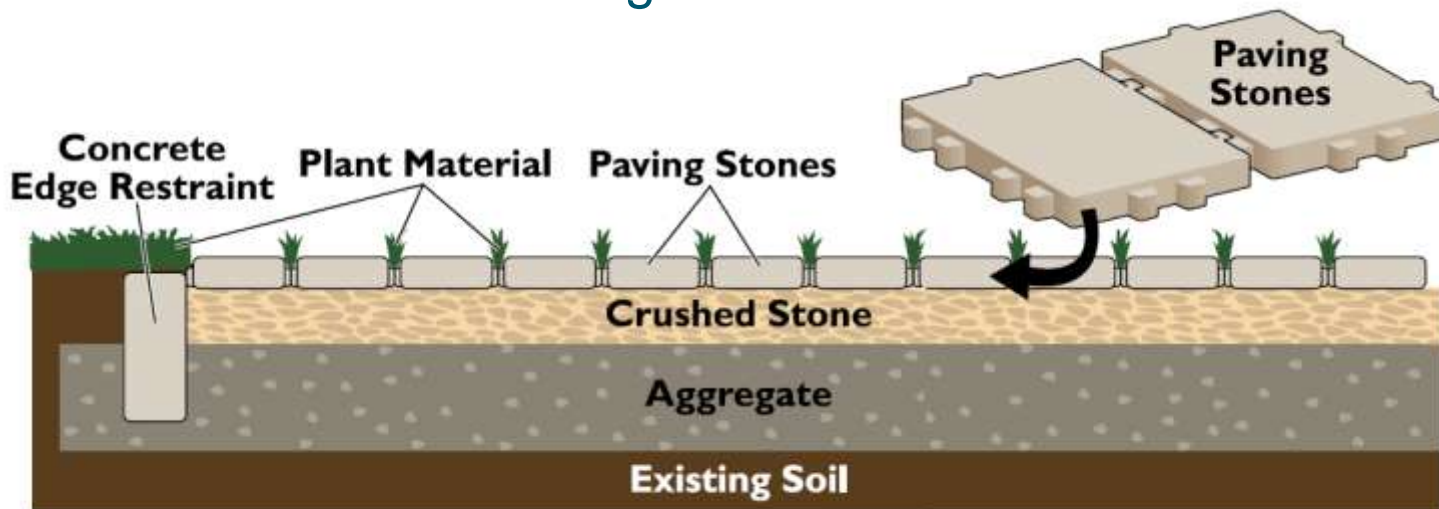
Paving methods for parking lots, driveways, walkways, and patios that allow the movement of water and air through the paving material.



# POROUS PAVERS

Water drains in between the pavers, is held in a stone bed, and then absorbs slowly into the underlying soil.

- Replenishes groundwater
- Traps and treats pollutants
- Decreases urban heating
- Allows tree roots to breathe
- Reduces flash flooding



# PETS

**Put dog waste in the toilet or trash can, not in the street or down a storm drain.**

Dog waste introduces disease-causing bacteria into our water supply.



**Shocking Poo Fact:**  
3.6 billion pounds of dog waste a year is produced in the U.S. alone, equaling 800 football fields, one foot high.



# GREEN WALLS

These vertical gardens can live on existing building walls or free-standing walls covered in various vines, evergreens or deciduous plants.

These living walls:

- Absorb rainwater
- Improve air quality
- Serve as aesthetically pleasing privacy fencing





## NATIVE PLANTS

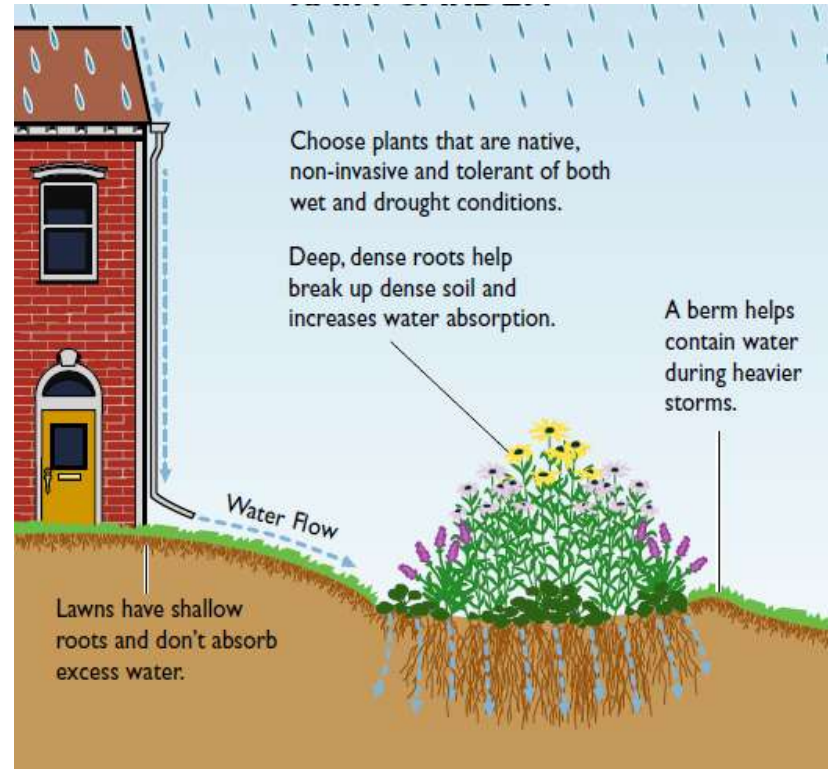
- Do not require fertilizer
- Have evolved over time to grow well in local weather and soil conditions
- Attract native butterflies, birds and other wildlife



# RAIN GARDEN

A dug-out, shallow depression that captures and cleanses rainwater from surfaces such as parking lots or your house's roof.

The captured rainwater is filtered by the plants and soil in the rain garden. The plant's roots not only remove pollutants from the water, but allow for absorption and slow release of the water back into the atmosphere thus helping to reduce flooding.



## CAR MAINTENANCE

Service your car regularly to prevent oils and other fluids from leaking onto the pavement and washing into storm drains.

Take used motor oil to a auto shop that recycles.

The EPA estimates that American households improperly dump the equivalent of 17 Exxon Valdez oil spills every year.



## CAR CARE

Take your car to a commercial car wash that recycles the water. Otherwise all of the dirt and soap that was on your car will wash down your driveway, into the storm drain and then end up in your local creek.





## HOME REPAIR

Look for eco-friendly products:

- Renewable products like bamboo flooring
- No or low VOC, water-based paints
- Products made from recycled materials
- Materials produced locally
- Products with the Energy Star or Water Sense logo





## CLEAN ENERGY

- Replace incandescent bulbs with energy saving CFL bulbs
- Install solar panels
- Insulate and caulk your home
- Unplug electrical devices not in use
- Use a programmable thermostat



A CFL can last 8-15 times longer than an incandescent bulb and save over \$30 in electricity costs over its lifetime.





## CLEANING SUPPLIES

Minimize the use of toxic substances such as mothballs, drain and oven cleaners, and insect sprays.

Substitute with products that use natural ingredients whenever possible.



## PICK 3 AND START TODAY!

- Reuse rainwater
- Landscape with native plants
- Use natural cleaners
- Look for Energy Star & Water Sense products
- Insulate your home
- Create a rain garden
- Use a programmable thermostat
- Grasscycle
- Install porous pavers
- Build a green wall
- Go solar





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# FIND OUT MORE AT WILMINGTON EARTH DAY!

Visit our booth!



**in**  
A GREEN CITY.

Think GREEN and be GREEN from  
**11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2010**  
in **Rodney Square**

as the City of Wilmington and the  
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary  
Celebrate the 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY of Earth Day 2010.  
Enjoy music, giveaways, and lots of GREEN vendors.

**Wilmington**  
In the middle of it all

For more information, visit [www.WilmingtonDE.gov](http://www.WilmingtonDE.gov) or [www.DelawareEstuary.org](http://www.DelawareEstuary.org)

