Safe Rain Barrel Use

- Maintain the screen to prevent mosquito breeding
- Keep the lid sealed and child safe
- Install strapping to prevent tipping
- Release stormwater slowly and safely
  - Do not concentrate flows onto erodible soil areas
  - Drain to a well vegetated, stable, non-eroding area using drip tape or soaker hose
  - Direct overflow back to an under drain or safe dispersal area

Placing Your Rain Barrels

- Place barrels at least 5’ from the Public Right of Way (ROW)
- Place barrels on a flat, well drained area, away from erodible soil areas
- Place barrels on a stable base, such as on blocks, bricks, pea gravel, sand, or a level concrete surface
- Use strapping to prevent tipping
- For slopes averaging 3:1 or gentler (horizontal distance to vertical rise), place the barrel at least 5’ away from the edge of a natural break in slope (without a retaining wall)
- For steeper slopes, use retaining wall and terracing built with structural elements such as blocks (un-reinforced or reinforced) as needed to create a flat, stable area. Consult with an engineer for your specific site requirements. Terraced slopes can also be used to slow water velocity and create more surface area for infiltration.
Consider the weight of the full rain barrels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Full Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65 gal</td>
<td>554 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 gal</td>
<td>1740 lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discharge and Drainage
(See Oakland Municipal Code OMC15.04.660)

- Overflow may not discharge over the public right of way
- Discharge stormwater runoff away from structures, foundations, and neighboring property
- Do not concentrate flows (disperse them over a broad area)
- Diffuse the flow using drip tape, a soaker hose, flow spreader or diffuser
- Direct overflow back to an under drain or safe dispersal area

Maintenance and Cleaning

- Keep your rain barrels clean of debris
- Maintain the screens to prevent mosquito breeding
- Clean your rain barrels yearly with non-toxic cleaner such as vinegar

Local Information and Resources

- American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA): www.arcsa.org
- The Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District: Mosquito breeding prevention tips www.mosquitoes.org
- Low Impact Development Center, Inc.: www.lowimpactdevelopment.org
- Watershed and Stormwater management Program: watersheds@oaklandnet.com
- Urban Farmer: www.urbanfarmerstore.com
  (510) 524-1604

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