

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** November 6, 2006  
**To:** Apple Valley Residents  
**From:** Apple Valley Natural Resources  
**Re:** Materials Suppliers: Do-It-Yourself Rain Barrel Projects

Rain barrels are a simple device homeowners can install on their property to reduce stormwater runoff and harvest rainwater. While readymade rain barrels can be purchased from hardware stores, lawn and garden stores, non-profits, and internet vendors, the cost for a rain barrel can be significantly reduced if made by the homeowner. In an effort to assist Apple Valley Residents with rain barrel projects, Apple Valley Natural Resources has compiled the following list of materials suppliers.

### Inlet Screens, Outlets, and Overflows

- Can be constructed from a variety of apparatuses found at local hardware stores, pool supply stores, and garden centers
- Be sure inlet is adequately screened to prevent mosquito breeding.
- Be sure overflow has adequate capacity to direct heavy rain events from home foundation.

### Plastic Food Grade Barrel Suppliers

- Using cleaned food grade plastic barrels that didn't previously contain toxic chemicals ensures rainwater is clean enough to water flower gardens and lawn. Rain barrels are not currently recommended for use on vegetable gardens.
- Most beverage and food processing plants will have left over barrels at the end of their production process. Contact local businesses to see if they have used food grade barrels. Feel free to contact Apple Valley Natural Resources if you find a supplier not currently on our list and we'll consider adding them.
- You don't have to be stuck with the color of the rain barrel you purchase. There are a variety of paint products on the market that will work on plastics. Be creative and send us pictures of your projects. We just may put a picture of your project on our website!
- Vine Park Brewing Co.  
1254 W 7<sup>th</sup> St, St Paul  
651-228-1355  
Price: FREE  
Size: 55 gallon, tight head  
Condition: used – need cleaning, contained malt and may be moldy  
Special notes: No need to call ahead of time, just head to the back and take as many as you want.  
Any full barrels need to be left on site. Full barrels contain used grain that is used for animal feed by a local farmer.
- Minnesota Materials Exchange  
Price: varies, can be free  
Size: varies  
Condition: varies  
Special notes: Will want to confirm containers did not contain any toxics. Search under drum, plastic.
- Citrus Systems Inc  
125 Jackson Ave N, Hopkins  
952-935-0410  
Price: \$5.00

Size: 55 gallon  
Condition: used & not cleaned, contained beverage concentrates

- Lushanko Container  
651-428-7420  
Price: Includes delivery (in Apple Valley area)  
    \$10.00 – reconditioned  
    \$6.00 – used & not cleaned  
Size: what is available at the time  
Condition: reconditioned or used & not cleaned  
Special notes: As indicated above, delivery is included in the price in the Apple Valley area. Some food grade barrels may have contained cleaning products used to clean food processing machinery and not food ingredients, so you may want to confirm what your barrels originally contained if that poses a concern.
- Western Container  
8811 Science Center Dr  
New Hope, MN 55428  
612-338-2413  
[www.bargaincontainer.com](http://www.bargaincontainer.com)  
Price: \$15.00  
Size: 55 gallon  
Condition: reconditioned  
Special notes: Supplier may not know what materials were housed in containers, so check for any lingering chemical odors before purchasing.
- Midway Container  
2341 Hampden Ave, St Paul  
651-647-0101  
[www.midwaycontainer.com](http://www.midwaycontainer.com)  
Price: tight head - \$39.25  
    open head (lid screws off) - \$49.37  
Size: 55 gallon  
Condition: new
- Twin City Container  
2117 Charles Ave, St Paul (corporate offices in Hastings)  
651-645-1026  
[www.tcc-mn.com/service.htm](http://www.tcc-mn.com/service.htm)  
Price: \$39.50  
Size: 55 gallon  
Condition: new, tight head
- Consolidated Container Company, LLC  
109 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
612-781-0923  
[www.containerexperts.com](http://www.containerexperts.com)  
Price: \$55.00  
Size: 55 gallon  
Condition: new

Please note: the above does not represent an endorsement of any kind by the City of Apple Valley. For further information on rain barrel construction or water quality improvement practices for the homeowner, visit the Natural Resources section of the Apple Valley website at [www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us) or call Apple Valley Natural Resources staff at 952-953-2579.