



DNREC offers rain barrels at discount price to Delawareans
Barrels to be sold first-come, first-served June 26-28 at three locations

DOVER (June 5, 2012) – To encourage water conservation and promote wise use of it throughout the state, the DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship is offering rain barrels at a discounted price to residents of Delaware at pickup locations in each county in late June.

Regular retail price for these heavy-duty plastic barrels is \$120 or more. However, by purchasing the barrels at a quantity discount, the Nonpoint Source Program can offer them for \$66 each. The barrels will be available for pickup at locations in each county in June at the times and dates listed below. **A limited number of barrels are available and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.**

The terra cotta-colored barrels are made from recycled food grade barrels that originally entered the United States filled with olives and pickles. Thoroughly scrubbed, the barrels may have some small scrapes and scratches from their travels. The barrels are fitted with a screw-on perforated top with an inside mesh screen to help keep out debris, bugs, pets and children, plus a spigot and an overflow hose fitting to allow water to be diverted into a second barrel.

For **Sussex County** residents, barrels will be available for pick up at 10 a.m. until all barrels are sold on Thursday, June 28 at the DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship, Lewes Facility, next to the (new Lewes boat ramp), located 901 Pilottown Road, Lewes. For directions, please visit <http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/Shoreline/Pages/LewesFieldFacility.aspx>.

Having a rain barrel provides an innovative way to capture rainwater from your roof and store it for later use. Water collected from rain barrels can be used to wash cars and to water lawns, gardens and indoor plants.

“Without a rain barrel, this water would run off your roof and become stormwater, picking up pollutants on its way to a storm drain, stream, lake, bay or ocean,” said Environmental Scientist Sharon Webb of the Division’s Nonpoint Source Program. “By using a rain barrel, you can lower your water bill, conserve well water in the dry season and reduce polluted stormwater runoff.”

For more information, please call Sharon Webb at 302-739-9922, or email sharon.webb@state.de.us. To check on availability during distribution, please call 302-739-9922. Payment must be made by check or money order made out to “**State of Delaware.**”