Nature's Way of Recycling – rain barrels and compost bins!

Why compost?

- Saves money in trash disposal
- Reduce waste created in yards and kitchens
- Converts leaves, grass and kitchen scraps into a usable soil amendment
- Reduces the need for additional fertilizers
- Finished compost makes good mulch for new plants

Compost Bin Specs:
Diameter: 33"
Height: 33"
Capacity: 80 Gal
Color: Black

*Includes lid and harvest door at base

Composting basics

1. Purchase a compost bin from RAM at www.recycleminnesota.org
2. Recipe:
   - 2 parts greens like food scraps and grass (nitrogen-rich)
   - 3 parts browns like dry leaves (carbon-rich), some coarse materials like sticks or wood chips to create air space.
   - Water to keep the pile moist like a sponge.

   *Do not add: meat, fats, oils, dairy, or pet droppings.
3. Turn frequently for a faster finish.

Don't have a rain barrel or compost bin yet?

Order Online Today!
www.recycleminnesota.org

When can I use my compost?

Time varies greatly from a few months to a year depending on conditions for your pile. Finished, mature compost should look, feel and smell like rich, dark soil and will be about ½ the original volume. You should not be able to recognize any items you put in. Compost that is not mature can damage plants, so try one of these easy tests to be sure compost is ready.

The Sniff Test
Take a sample of compost and check for foul odors. They indicate anaerobic or airless decomposition is occurring, creating chemicals, which can be toxic to plants. As a rule, foul smelling compost should not be used.

The Bag Test
Take a small sample of compost from the inside of the pile, wet it thoroughly, and seal the sample in a plastic bag and store the closed bag for about a week at room temperature. There should be no foul odors when you open the bag. It should have a pleasant, earthy odor. If not, the composting process should be continued.

Why Rain barrels?

- Save money
- Conserve water
- Rainwater is naturally soft
- Improve the health of lawns and gardens
- Storm water management/erosion control

Rain Barrel Specs:
Systern
Diameter: 26"
Height: 34"
Capacity: 55 US Gal
Color: Tan

Raincatcher
Diameter: 24"
Height: 36"
Capacity: 54 US Gal
Color: Brown

*Both rain barrels include hardware and screen tops.

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Rain Barrel Basics

- Select a location to place you rain barrel, such as under a gutter or drainspout.
- Choose a rain barrel that fits your storage and aesthetic needs. Rain barrels come in a wide array of sizes and colors.
- Use with a soaker hose around trees, shrubs, gardens and plantings or use it to fill up a watering can for potted plants.
- Do not use rain water for human or pet consumption.

When can I use the rain water?

With many cities enforcing watering bans, rain water can be applied anytime and is naturally soft, devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride and other chemicals making it great for plants, lawns and gardens. Rain water cannot be used for drinking without special treatment.

About the Recycling Association of Minnesota

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is committed to promoting resource conservation through waste prevention, reuse, recycling, composting and purchasing practices using the most cost effective and environmentally sound methods available in Minnesota. RAM has more than 200 members from the public, private and nonprofit sectors. RAM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

RECYCLING ASSOCIATION of Minnesota

City of Elk River

RAMSEY COUNTY

City of minnetonka
Where quality is our nature