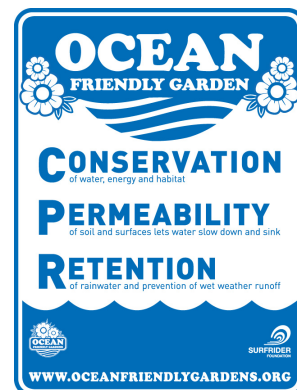


Surfrider Foundation's  
Ocean Friendly Gardens Program™  
Rainwater Capture In The Soil & The Barrel

Pollutants collect on hard surfaces like roofs and driveways, and are flushed into the street, creeks and ocean when it rains. Turf lawns can become compacted and a source of runoff. Urban runoff is the #1 source of ocean pollution. We can each do our part to prevent it. The **Ocean Friendly Gardens** (OFG) Program looks at a property as a mini-watershed, where water flows from a high point to a low point. In between, we want it to slow down, spread out, and sink in – like a stream. We call it, “Applying CPR to the landscape: Conservation, Permeability & Retention©.”

We want to direct water from the roof and driveway into the landscape. About 600 gallons of water can be captured for every inch of rain falling on 1000 square feet of hard surface. So a typical 55-gallon rain barrel will fill up quickly. Healthy soil



City of San Diego Rainwater Harvesting Guide

absorbs rainwater, keeping soil biology happy and tapped by plants during drier months. Excess water percolates down into aquifers and feeds streams. These aquifers are an important source of drinking water. So here are steps you can take:

**Step 1 - Identify Your High and Low Points**

Extend rain gutter downspouts away from your home and into dry streambeds. Rain barrels have an overflow outlet: connect it to a hose and direct the hose to a landscaped area (see bottom picture). At the end of the streambed, direct the overflow to the street from very large rainstorms.

**Step 2 - Create a “Sponge” in Your Soil**

Un-compact your soil, add compost and apply mulch.

**Step 3 – Reduce the Need for Water Use**

Use native plants that are

adapted to the climate. Many natives are edible. Fruit trees can provide partial shade to vegetable crops.

**Step 4 – Make a Budget**

Rain barrels and tanks can help water vegetables in dry months. Calculate how much water the vegetables need to determine the size of the tank.



City of San Diego, Rainwater Harvesting Guide



**Learn More & Share Your Story**

[San Diego Surfrider Chapter's OFG webpage](http://sandiego.surfrider.org/programs/ocean-friendly-gardens) – it has local resources, pictures of OFG worksites, and ways to volunteer:

<http://sandiego.surfrider.org/programs/ocean-friendly-gardens>.

[National OFG website](http://www.oceanfriendlygardens.org) – DIY info, criteria for the OFG sign (pictured above), map on which to post your garden: [www.oceanfriendlygardens.org](http://www.oceanfriendlygardens.org).

[City of San Diego - “Rainwater Harvesting Guide”](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/resrainwaterharvesting.shtml) (at the bottom of this website): <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/resrainwaterharvesting.shtml>.