



Charleston County News Release

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Reserve your rain barrel: <http://www.rainbarrelprogram.org/ashleycooper>

Photo of Ivy rain barrel: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/ivy.htm>

Residents Can Get a Great Deal on Rain Barrels this Month!

Order by May 27 and pick up on June 1 at the County's Public Services Building in N. Charleston

[Charleston County Government](#) and [Ashley Cooper Stormwater Education Consortium](#) have partnered to offer Ivy rain barrels to residents at a discounted price this month. The normal retail is \$119 but through the special partnership, they are only \$63 in an effort to encourage residents to conserve water resources and protect water quality. Water collected by the rain barrels can be used for gardens/lawns and to wash cars and pets.

The rain barrels can be purchased directly through the program's website, <http://www.rainbarrelprogram.org/ashleycooper>, using a credit card. There will also be a limited number of rain barrels on the day of the sale through a first come first served basis.

The deadline to purchase rain barrels online is 11 p.m. on Monday, May 27, and the pick-up date is Saturday, June 1, between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. at Charleston County's Public Services Building located at [4045 Bridge View Drive in North Charleston](#).

Rain barrels capture rainwater from rooftops by connecting to the home's downspout. This water would typically be sent down the storm drain carrying potential contaminants and contributing to flash flooding. The cumulative effect of rain barrels implemented throughout a geographic area can have a significant impact on stormwater management and water quality.

"The field of rain water harvesting has really been increasing over the last five years and is encouraged by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency," said Neil Desai, an environmental engineer with [Charleston County's Public Works Department](#). "In the end it is an opportunity to collect water running off roofs and reuse that water, keeping it onsite, which eliminates a huge portion of your stormwater runoff. This is important because it keeps pollutants such as fertilizer and pet waste from ending up in our streams and ocean."

[Charleston County Government's Stormwater Management Program](#) works closely with [Ashley Cooper Stormwater Education Consortium](#), which has the resources to educate the public

"Harvesting rainwater is good stewardship practice for conserving and protecting clean water in our community," said Kimberly Counts, Co-coordinator of the Ashley Cooper Stormwater Education Consortium. "Rain barrels offer a practical, cost-efficient way to gather and store rainwater at your home for outdoor, non-potable use. Other reasons to collect rainwater include the potential to save money on utility bills over the long term, the ability to control moisture levels around the foundation of your home, to water your garden, and to prevent stormwater pollution."

The rain barrel program website, <http://www.rainbarrelprogram.org/ashleycooper>, includes a frequently asked questions section and a video on how to install the rain barrel.

Features of the Ivy rain barrel:

- Made in the U.S.
- 50% recycled plastic

- Dimensions 42.5" H x 22" W x 18" L
- Child proof, bug proof lid
- Best-in-class overflow set up
- 3/4" ball valve easily connects to garden hose
- Three rain barrels easily fit in the backseat of a midsize sedan
- All parts included and ready to set up
- Gravity fed. No pumps required
- Link two or more Ivys together using your existing overflow hose

SIDEBAR: Ashley Cooper Stormwater Education Consortium (from http://www.clemson.edu/public/carolinaclear/consortiums/acsec_home/about.html):

- The Ashley Cooper Stormwater Education Consortium is a partnership between communities (MS4s), universities, agencies and non-profits working together to implement a regional, watershed-scale stormwater runoff education strategy in the Charleston urbanized area.
- The effort was spearheaded in the Charleston region by [Clemson University's Carolina Clear Program](#).
- Participating communities include the counties of Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester and the municipalities of Charleston, Folly Beach, Goose Creek, Isle of Palms, Lincolnville, North Charleston, Sullivan's Island, and Summerville.
- Kim Counts and Guinn Garrett co-lead the Carolina Clear efforts in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties.
 - Contact Kim Counts at (843) 722-5940 ext. 128 or kcounts@clemson.edu
 - Contact Guinn Garrett at (843) 722-5940 ext. 125 or cggarre@clemson.edu
- "Like" Ashley Cooper Stormwater Education Consortium on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ashleycooperstormwater>

For information on Charleston County Government news and services, the public can:

- Visit our website: www.charlestoncounty.org
- Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChasCountyGov>
- Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753>
 - *Emergency Management Department:* <http://www.facebook.com/EMDChasCo>
 - *Consolidated 9-1-1 Center's Public Education Program:* <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753#!/pages/Charleston-County-Consolidated-9-1-1-Center-Public-Education-Program/186965438015227>
 - *Board of Elections and Voter Registration:* <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Board-of-Elections-and-Voter-Registration/103895809694986>
- See us on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/charlestoncountygov>
- Watch County Council meetings online <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/charleston-county-government>



- written by Jennie Flinn -