



RiverSides™

Where Water Quality Begins

We are all excited here at Riversides to welcome another spring and the beginning of this years gardening and landscaping season!

The new and improved RiverSafe RainBarrel!

We're continuing to manufacture our RainBarrels right here in Ontario, as always, however our dedication to providing a quality stormwater management tool has inspired us to make a few manufacturing improvements including:

- Increased recycled content, and the option of our 100% recycled content Black RainBarrel.
- Improved connection outlets, made of brass to ensure years of use.
- Improved look and colour. We have made some subtle adjustments to our colours and finishes to help beautify you garden and property.

These improvements added to our already impressive list of features makes the RiverSafe RainBarrel is the most innovative and practical, safe and reliable rain harvester available.

New RainBarrel Soaker Hose!

We are also happy to now be providing a wonderful new soaker hose designed specifically for use with the gravity fed pressure of RainBarrels. This is a great new product and we have been testing it extensively in our own gardens and backyards.

This style of soaker hose can make watering your garden a snap and minimize weed growth that is propagated by overhead watering methods. Bringing your garden and your RainBarrel closer together.

And remember... keep watering in the early morning or evening to prevent water loss by evaporation.



RiverSides is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing stormwater pollution and creating RiverSafe communities. We protect rivers through education and providing the tools people need to make the connection between personal action and healthy rivers.

We are proud of the strong relationships formed through the years of working with partners, communities, and municipalities across North America in implementing RiverSides' programs.



Upcoming Events:

GREEN LIVING SHOW

APRIL 23-25

Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto

[Click here to see the flyer](#) or [click here to visit the website...](#)

ECOFEST NIAGARA

APRIL 18, 10am-4pm

Niagara College,
Niagara on the Lake

[Click here to visit the website...](#)

Visit our website for a complete calendar of events...



Downspout Disconnect Update:

For Toronto residents in the combined sewer service area a mandatory downspout disconnection is required by Nov. 20, 2010.

Chances are if you live in Toronto you fall in this area, but to find out more on this combined sewer service area [click here](#).

For more information on this program [visit the City of Toronto Website](#).

And for a handy step by step guide to disconnecting your own downspout (Offered by the City of Toronto) visit [this link](#).





UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Researchers at UoT complete a landmark study on the effects of 401 runoff on Ontario's water quality:

March 2, 2010 -- The levels of contamination to water and sediment in Frenchman's Bay in Pickering, Ontario greatly exceed provincial water quality standards, in some cases by as much as 250 per cent, according to a new study by researchers at the University of Toronto Scarborough. This is largely due to large amounts of road salt applied in winter, especially to Highway 401, the study finds. [To read the full article click here...](#)

Interested in being part of a diverse team committed to healthy watersheds and livable cities?

We are always seeking energetic and enthusiastic individuals for RiverSides Projects, Working Groups, and even Board Members.



Call for Photos!!!

If anyone would like to submit any photos for use on the website we are very happy to showcase them with credit to the photographer. Water is living. Send us your amazing pictures of your interaction with our rivers, lakes, and streams. Or pictures of your active stormwater management practices at home!

Eco-Product Highlights

Want to make your lawn and garden more eco-friendly? [Click here to visit smart garden](#), Canada's premier web boutique dedicated solely to high quality lawn and garden products that are innovative, useful and (most importantly....

environmentally sustainable.





As always this is a friendly reminder to take care of your rain harvesting systems with these Spring RainBarrel Maintenance Tips:



- After heavy rains, clean your filter system, ensuring that water runs freely into your rain barrel.
- Check the overflow port and ensure nothing is obscuring its flow.
- When empty, check to ensure your rainbarrel is on a flat and level surface.
- Clean your eaves troughs and ensure that downspouts are free from debris.
- Empty your rain barrel as soon as possible after each rainstorm. Don't worry about summer drought until June. Remember: *after the rain, it's time to drain.*

Rainwater Harvesting in Toronto:

Potential Energy Conservation & Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions

In a recent report prepared by RiverSides for the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, we looked at the benefits and barriers of rainwater harvesting. As Toronto began investigating ways to reduce GhG emissions, awareness of the energy inputs required for urban infrastructure increased. At the same time, around the world, research into energy inputs in water supply systems raised the issue of the water-energy nexus. As Toronto's water and wastewater system is one of the largest contributors to electricity demand by the Corporation of the City of Toronto, and rainwater is a major untapped source of water that currently flows unused into the wastewater side of the system, RiverSides saw the natural fit with rainwater harvesting for Toronto's long term sustainability.

Considering the multiple benefits there is a strong argument for investment in the support of rainwater harvesting by the City of Toronto. A combination of financial incentives, policy incentives and capacity building is recommended; the City's Green Roofs Program is cited as a model.