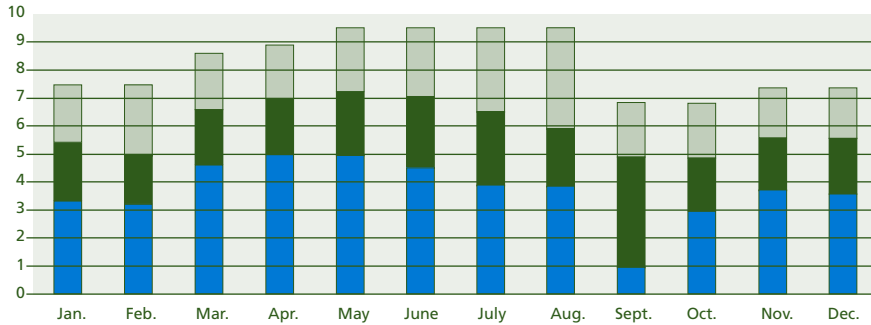


## Rain Barrel Draining Guide

### Monthly Rainfall Frequency for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

These figures chart how much rain Pittsburgh gets throughout the year. During our rainy months—May to August—you will need to drain your barrel about six times a month. In an exceptionally wet month, this can rise as high as ten. It is essential to drain the rain barrel after each rainfall.



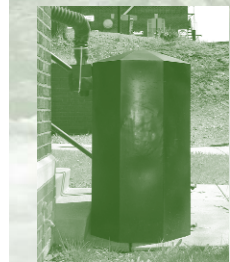
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Average number of monthly storms Dry Month	3	3	5	5	5	5	4	4	1	3	4	4
Average number of monthly storms Typical Month	5	5	7	7	7	7	6	6	5	5	6	6
Average number of monthly storms Wet Month	7	7	9	9	10	10	9	8	7	7	7	7

Data Courtesy of Camp Dresser McKee Engineers

### Thank You

By maintaining your rain barrel properly, you are helping to ensure a long and healthy life for Nine Mile Run.

For more information on maintaining your RiverSafe RainBarrel, or for additional parts and information, please contact **Nine Mile Run Watershed Association** (412) 371-8779 or email us at [rainbarrels@ninemilerun.org](mailto:rainbarrels@ninemilerun.org) [www.ninemilerun.org](http://www.ninemilerun.org)



# Nine Mile Run Rain Barrel Initiative



## Maintaining Your RiverSafe RainBarrel



To ensure years of easy, convenient rain barrel ownership, this handbook outlines simple monthly maintenance practices.

# After each rain, it's time to drain.

## 1. Draining Your Rain Barrel

A full rain barrel doesn't help Nine Mile Run, so it's important to remember this:

### **After each rain, it's time to drain.**

How often? See the Rain Barrel Draining Guide on the last page of this booklet to determine how many times a month you will need to drain your rain barrel.

Do it right:

- Always drain to a soft surface – a lawn, garden or pond.
- Always ensure your run-off flow stays in your yard.
- Prevent erosion from the flow by directing it to a splash pad or rocky surface.

## 2. Irrigating with Your Rain Barrel

There are two hose connections on your rain barrel. Insert the brass  $\frac{3}{4}$ " drain valve into one of these.

**a) Top connection** – Most convenient if you are filling a watering can or bucket directly from the barrel. One rain barrel fills 100 watering cans.

**b) Bottom connection** – Gives maximum pressure for a garden hose connection. It takes about two hours to drain the rain barrel with a standard garden hose. A soaker hose is slower but ideal for gently watering lawns or gardens.



✓ keep overflows and drainage on your property

### Annual Checklist

- ✓ check that your lower overflow connection directs water to a naturalized or permeable surface
- ✗ don't direct overflow to a driveway, laneway, street gutter or sidewalk
- ✗ don't allow draining or overflows to create mosquito breeding habitat (pools)
- ✓ ensure that the RiverSafe™ filter sock is secure and hole-free to keep your rain barrel mosquito-proof
- ✓ clean roof gutters twice a year to reduce debris that could clog the filter
- ✓ inspect downspouts leading to your rain barrel

## 3. Seasonal and Monthly Routine

### Monthly – Clean your filter system



Remove debris from the mesh screen



Pull out the filter cylinder



Invert the RiverSafe filter sock; clean with a hose



Reinsert the filter cylinder

### Winter – Switch to "By-pass" for winter flows



Remove the hose connection



Open the drain valve



Clean and re-insert the filter cylinder



Turn the valve to "By-pass"

### Spring – Switch to "Collect" for April showers



Inspect the filters



Check the downspout connections



Turn the valve to "Collect"



Close the drain valve