

24 SUSTAINABILITY

Install a water butt



A water butt is used to capture rainfall, which can then be used for watering plants. It helps reduce tapwater consumption, which may become significant if hosepipes are used. Harvested rainwater is also better for flowers, fruit and vegetables.

Suitability	Low, medium and high density housing.
Management type	Water-saving. This option would work well as a companion activity with 'create vegetable plots' and 'flowering shrubs and containers'.
Supplier information	Many water companies and local councils offer water butt products via partnership with Straight Manufacturing Ltd.
Community engagement?	Inform residents that free and sustainable water source available to use for watering garden beds, containers etc.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces tap water consumption. • Harvested rainwater is much better for plants, flowers, fruit and vegetables than tap water, which is often treated with chemicals and chlorine.
Costs/Disbenefit	Financial cost: Low – staff time to install.
Level of ongoing maintenance	Low.



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		Notes
How achieved	Purchase and install water butt(s) in suitable locations.	
Timing of activity	Any time.	
Long-term management	Clean out water butts annually in winter to prevent plant diseases spreading.	