

RAIN CHAIN



**Development
Brings More
Stormwater
Runoff.**

**RAIN CHAINS
CAN HELP!**

Non-porous surfaces such as driveways, patios, and roofs interfere with the natural flow of rainwater into the ground. This in turn can result in damage to both your home and the environment by causing soil degradation, erosion, and by polluting local water supplies. However, thoughtful runoff management can mitigate these effects and turn runoff into something that's beneficial to your garden without harming the surrounding environment. A rain chain is a gorgeous and low maintenance alternative to traditional gutter downspouts, which can clog and freeze in cold weather. A rain chain directs runoff where you want it to, protecting not only the local environment but also your home.

BUILD & HANG YOUR OWN RAIN CHAIN WITH ITEMS FOUND AROUND THE HOUSE

1. Find or buy as many rings as you need to create a rain chain long enough to drop from your gutter down to the ground below. Large binder rings, key rings, or shower rings will work fine.
2. First, simply link or clip all of your rings together in one long chain.
3. For larger diameter rings, you should thread a length of metal wire or thread through the chain to ensure the water flows continuously downward.
4. Next, you'll need to remove the downspout from the drain you have chosen to hang your chain from. Then, slide a gutter strap into place over the opening.
5. Hang your rain chain from the gutter strap and anchor it to the ground using a little u-shaped garden stake.
6. Create a depression at the base, lined with locally available rocks or decorative gravel to slow water and encourage infiltration into the ground.
7. To make your rain chain more eye catching, choose plants well adapted to site, soil, and moisture levels (drought tolerant on higher ground, moisture-tolerant in dry creek bed).

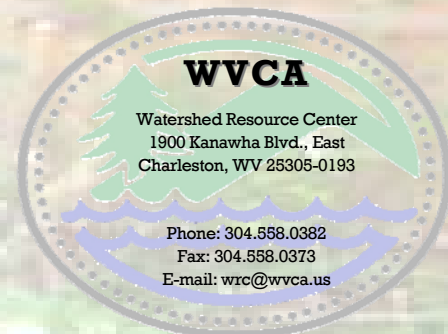


Sit back and wait for the rain to come so you can see your new rain chain in action.

MAINTENANCE

Rain chains need little maintenance, except checking your gutter for debris, as you would with a normal downspout.

If you live in an area with high wind storms or harsh heavy ice, it is recommended to take down the rain chain during winter and replace your regular downspout. A heavy build up of ice, while pretty, could weigh down on your gutter and cause damage. Unless you are in a region like this, most people can leave their rain chains up all year round.



RAIN CHAIN BENEFITS

A **rain chain** is an alternative to the downspout component in a traditional **rain gutter** system. Rain chains are typically a series of metal cups, with a hole in the bottom of each, or chain links that span vertically, funneling water from a rain gutter to either a collection system or to the ground. Rain chains can be constructed from a variety of materials including aluminum, brass, copper and plastic. The most commonly used material, though, is copper.

- ⇒ Channels water away from basements, walks and patios.
- ⇒ Keeps the outside of your home or structure clean by preventing mud and sand from splashing up onto siding and windows.
- ⇒ Protects the color of brick and concrete. No drip lines or discoloring.
- ⇒ Protects concrete slabs from sinking and cracking.
- ⇒ Provides an aesthetically different alternative to traditional gutter downspouts.
- ⇒ Preserves stained wood decks, doors and garage doors from splash-ups.
- ⇒ Stops landscape erosion. Plant without the concern for flooding.

Sources of information:

Michelle Kaufmann

<http://www.blog.michellekaufmann.com>

Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rain_chain

Protecting The Chesapeake Bay
One Citizen at a Time!

WVCA

Watershed Resource Center
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305-0193

Phone: 304.558.0382

Fax: 304.558.0373

E-mail: wrc@wvca.us

BENEFITS OF A RAIN CHAIN



WVCA
Watershed Resource Center
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
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FAX: 304.558.0373