

Living with Green Solutions

When it Rains, it Pours.



Caring for your gutters and downspouts

Spring - March

- Be certain gutters and downspouts are free of leaves, branches, and other plant material.
- Check that disconnected downspouts flow onto garden or yard areas.
- Check that rain water from downspouts does not flow directly into the street or onto a neighbor's property.

Fall - October and November

- Keep leaves from clogging gutters and downspouts.
- Check that disconnected downspouts flow onto garden or yard areas.
- Check that rain water from downspouts does not flow directly into the street or onto a neighbor's property.

Caring for your rain barrel

Spring - March

- Check out your rain barrel for damage from winter weather.
 - Is the overflow pipe broken?
 - Is the catch basin/basket broken?
 - Does the faucet leak?
 - Replace or repair damaged pieces.
- Clean out the rain barrel, if necessary.
- Check direction of overflow pipe. It should be directed away from buildings and into a yard area. It should not flow onto a neighbor's property or directly into the street.
- Close the faucet and be certain the gutter is directed into the rain barrel.
- Attach your hose for discharging water from your rain barrel.

Fall - October and November

- Keep leaves from clogging gutters and downspouts.
- Check that disconnected downspouts flow onto garden or yard areas.
- Check that rain water from downspouts does not flow directly into the street or onto a neighbor's property.



Caring for your rain garden

Spring - March and April

- When the weather is warm, rake leaves and other plant material from the rain garden; put this material in a compost pile.
- Pull any weeds starting to come up.
- Replace any dead plants. Divide plants that are getting too big and spread out too much. Plant them in other places in your yard, or pass them on to a friend or neighbor.
- Add mulch to the rain garden if needed.

Summer - May to August

- Check your garden every 1-2 weeks. Are the plants growing well? Are weeds and weedy grasses starting to show up in your garden?
- Pull any weeds, like crab grass, from your garden throughout the summer. It is easier to pull the weeds when they are small. They can be a pest, can't they?
- Water your garden, especially the first 2 years, if St. Joseph becomes dry (no rain for 2-3 weeks) during the hot summer. One inch of water per week is good. Use the water from your rain barrel!

Fall - September to November

- Continue to pull weeds and weedy grasses. They continue to sprout and grow during our nice fall weather. What pests!
- Rake leaves from the rain garden through October so the plants get sunlight and keep growing.
- Leave a layer of leaves for winter protection when November and frosty weather arrives.



Photo: URS Corporation