

HOW TO BUILD YOUR RAIN GARDEN



RESPECT OUR WATERS

1 To make the most efficient rain garden, aim to make your garden about 1/3 of the size of your roof, locating it 10 feet or more away from your home and foundation.

2 Position the garden in a natural low point where it can receive water from your sump pump or downspout. Call the Diggers Hotline (1- 800-242-8511) to check for buried utilities before you dig.

3 Dig the garden 4 to 6 inches deep. Ensure that the deepest part of the garden is in the center. It may be helpful to dig a test hole and fill it with water to ensure that your garden will drain properly.

4 Build a berm, or a raised or terraced portion of the garden, to keep water in place to soak into the ground. The berm can be built with the soil removed from the rest of the garden or another material.

5 Plant drought resistant natives. Before planting, set the plants one foot apart or the distance recommended by the nursery to ensure fit. Spread three inches of mulch on the garden and berm to retain moisture and prevent weeds.

6 Water immediately after planting and continue to water twice a week until the plants are established. In the first year, water if there is an official drought. In most cases, watering will not be necessary after the first year.

Visit Wisconsin DNR's Website to find a full Rain Garden Manual!
For more about stormwater pollution, visit www.respectourwaters.org