Subject: **Fun Ideas For Collecting Rainwater**

Dear NAME,

Collecting rainwater is a great way to make the most of this natural resource. Before you begin collecting rainwater, make sure that it is allowed in your community. Some cities and states have laws against collecting it. You can use your collected rainwater to water your garden and indoor plants, and even to wash your car.

Most rainwater collection systems simply gather the rain that comes off of the roofline. This water is usually directed away from your home and toward the local sewer system. Why not use it for good before you send it into the system?

**A Painted Barrel**

Some thrift stores, recycling centers, and landscaping facilities have low-cost or even free barrels. Take a look at the barrel and make sure there are no holes. If the interior of the barrel looks suspect, you can line it with plastic sheeting.

Paint the exterior of the barrel in bright or fun colors. You can add polka dots, flowers, rainbows or whatever you desire. It’s a great project for children too. They can put their painted handprints on the barrel.

Position the barrel under the primary downspout for your home, or choose the downspout that is closest to your garden. Tap the barrel and insert about six inches from the bottom. Seal it with caulk and plumbing tape and you’re good to go.

**A Large Planter**

Another option is to position a large planter under your downspout. For example, a citrus tree or a shrub planted in a planter. Make sure that you have drainage at the bottom of the plant.

Drill a hole near the bottom of the planter and attach a hose. Seal it with caulk so it doesn’t leak. Make sure the hose is long enough to reach your garden or flower bed. You can then funnel the water from your rooftop into your garden.

Finally, many communities offer free or low-cost rain collection systems. This is particularly true if you live in a community that is dealing with drought or is particularly environmentally conscious. Check out what your community has to offer. They may have a rain collection system ready for you to pick up and start using today.

One of the biggest uses of water in most communities is the lawn. Grass requires a significant amount of water to thrive. Next time we’ll take a look at some compelling reasons to get rid of your lawn and talk about how to do just that.