Louisiana receives the largest amount of annual rainfall in the US with an average of 60+ inches per year. Second is Florida. While many regions of the country are challenged with a lack of rain water flowing into local streams and reservoirs, Louisiana’s greatest threat from storm water is actually having to deal with an over abundance of water during rain events.

Rain Barrels detain water from rooftops and pause the rush of storm water from urban developments into local coulees and bayous during rain events, and they help to minimize the impacts of flash flooding.

Using rainwater stored in barrels to water landscaping helps to conserve precious fresh water resources and can also help to reduce your water and waste water bills.

Utilizing water stored in rain barrels is another way to harness solar energy which has been stored in raindrops as they are lifted into the atmosphere through evaporation and evapotranspiration.

**Tips or Usinn Your Raii Brrrel**

1) During an average rain event of 1.5 inches a 10’ x 10’ roof will shed 93 gallons of water. Use this formula to calculate the volume of rain collected from your rooftop during an average rain event:

\[
\text{[area of roof (in) x 1.5 (in) of rain]} \div 231 = \text{gallons stored during each event}
\]

2) A healthy garden requires 1 inch of water per week! To estimate how many gallons of water your garden/landscape will utilize each month, use this formula:

\[
\text{[area of garden (in) x 4 (in/month)]} \div 231 = \text{gallons needed each month}
\]

3) Most likely your roof will provide more than enough water to service all of your garden’s watering needs. For maximum results use a rain barrel(s) large enough to store sufficient amounts of rain to service your garden’s needs for two months of watering during dry spells.