

To find out more about rain gardening and other ways you and your community can use rain to support wildlife, reduce flood risk and improve your wellbeing please visit: www.communityactionforwater.org or scan the QR code on the right.



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Contain the Rain

How we can manage water together



Why contain the rain?

Human beings have always collected and contained rainwater. But now the weather is changing, bringing new challenges.



In dry weather our reservoirs are running low, leading to water shortages. In wet weather rain races down our roofs and roads to overwhelm our drains, leading to floods and pollution.

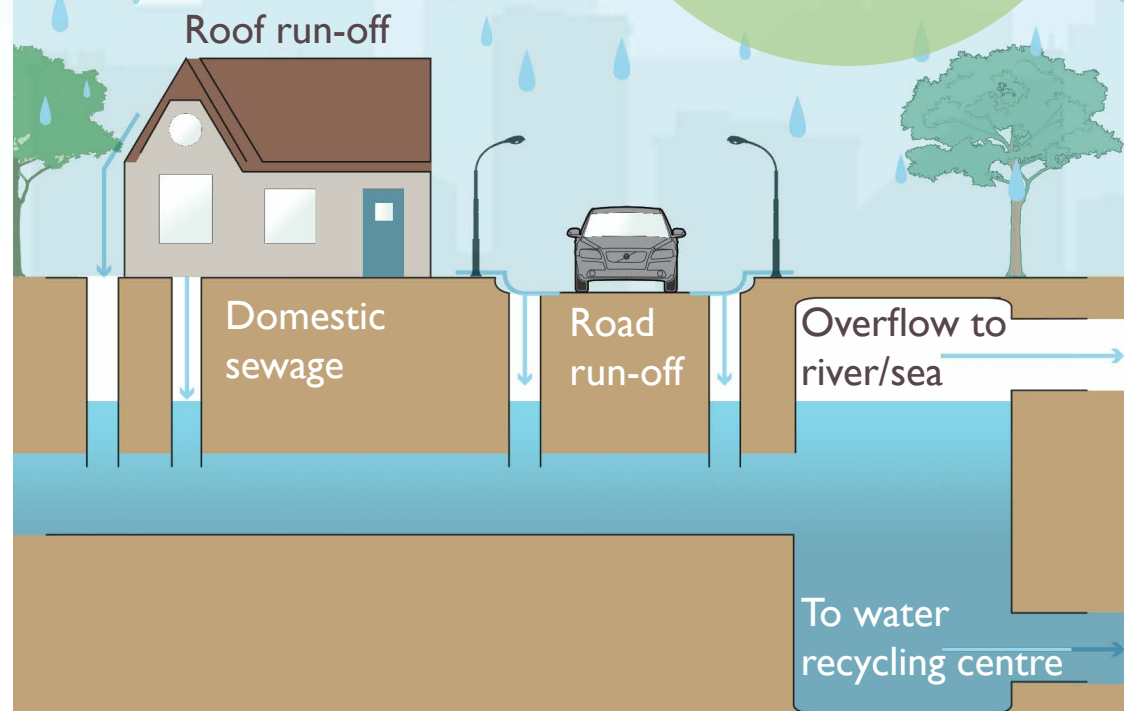
Inspired by nature, people are finding new ways to address these challenges.

Nature holds rain in the plants and soil, keeping moisture for dry weather. We too can prepare for dry weather, by collecting and containing the rain.

In nature the rainwater seeps through the ground emerging slowly into rivers. We too can slow the flow by releasing our collected water gradually when we need it, and directing it away from the drains and onto the land.

The average British terraced roof receives between 10,000 and 70,000 litres of rainfall each year.

If most of us attach even a small raintank (210 litres) to our house, we can reduce the risk of floods or pollution from overflows.



Open out this leaflet to find out more.

Q: How can we contain the rain?

A: All across the UK people are working together to manage rainwater and slow the flow.



In rural areas, farmers and land managers are:

- Removing concrete drains, construct 'leaky dams' and restore upland peatland to soak up rainfall,
- Returning meadows to act as natural floodplains, providing rich natural habitats when the water subsides.
- Building mini reservoirs to provide farms with water when it's dry, and slow and hold back rain when it's wet.

In towns and cities, Councils and Water Companies are:

- Landscaping green spaces beside our roads, to soak up, slow, filter and clean rainwater, and attract wildlife
- Designing multi-purpose spaces that can be used for play, sports, or animals when it is dry, and to contain rainwater when it is wet.
- Restoring and rewilding rivers, giving them more space to meander and overflow, so they become more beautiful and accessible to people and wildlife.



In our homes many of us are:

- Fitting rainwater tanks (also called "water butts") to downpipes on sheds and houses to capture this water, slowing the flow into drains and reducing the risk of flooding.

