

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Rain barrels are containers used to collect rain water from the roof of a building via the gutter and downspout to conserve water and reduce storm water runoff; and

**Whereas** Collecting rain water in rain barrels can prevent water from running off impervious surfaces, gathering pollutants and contaminating in local streams, rivers, pond, lakes and marine waters; and

**Whereas** Only one percent of our earth's water can be used for drinking and in the summer months, about 40% of all household water use takes place outdoors; and

**Whereas** Massachusetts experiences an average of 43.8 inches of rain annually and 1/4 of an inch of rainfall on a typical roof can fill a whole rain barrel; and

**Whereas** Rain water is "soft," or free from minerals and chemicals such as chlorine, fluoride, and calcium that are often present in municipal water and is considered ideal for watering plants or washing cars and windows; and

**Whereas** Rain barrels could save the average homeowner over one thousand gallons of water during the summer months; and

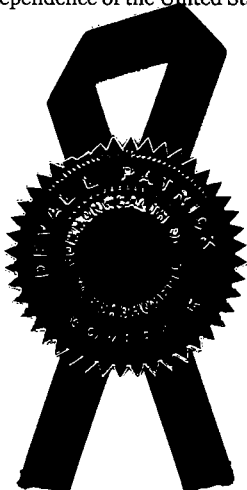
**Whereas** Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, seeks to educate the public about the positive impact that the use of rain barrels can have on our quality of life and our environment,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick**, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim April 26, 2011, to be,

## RAIN BARREL DAY

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this sixteenth day of April, in the year two thousand and eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fourth.



By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts