

## Water butts for flood risk management

Sefton Council is promoting ways to reduce the amount of water entering drainage systems or “*slowing the flow*” to protect the most vulnerable households and communities from flooding.

The purpose of this leaflet is to promote the use of residential rainwater storage for flood risk management. During extreme rainfall events water enters drainage systems and sometimes exceeds their capacity and causes flooding. This generally occurs further downstream in the system. The aim is to reduce the volume of water entering drainage systems and to reduce the highest flows during a storm event.

One of the easiest and most practical ways residents can do this is to use water butts to collect rainwater from your roof that would otherwise flow into the drainage system. Using a water butt to “*slow the flow*” can be done in two ways, water **can** be allowed to slowly pass into the drain or garden, this can be done by just leaving the tap slightly open to constantly drain via a piece of hose. There is also a large range of products available called rainwater dripline kits or micro irrigation kits



Example of Rainwater dripline kit

The second method is to store the water and actively use it to water plants or wash the car. For this to be effective you must make sure the water butt does not become full. This may require you to use the water in advance of forecasted rainfall.



### The benefits to you

- Water for your garden all year round
- Reduce your household’s carbon footprint
- Attract more wildlife to your garden
- Installing a water butt doesn’t have to be expensive
- If you disconnect your downspout from the main drainage system, your water rates may be reduced

### The benefits to your community

- Reducing the rate at which surface water enters the drainage system
- Help protect your home and community from flooding
- Cutting the energy needed for treating, pumping and transporting water for domestic use
- Saving water resources now helps ensure adequate water supply in the future