RECOVERING RAINWATER…
to protect the foundation of your building

Nearly 50% of Montréal buildings are constructed on clay soil. Champlain clay contracts when it dries. The stress then placed on building foundations may cause cracks in the building. The average cost of a repair is $17,000.

This problem might reoccur from time to time with the global warming trend. Take precautions. Use rainwater to keep the soil moist.

A downspout extender or self-coiling diverter, a percolating well, a drainage trench… These are some of the many ways of redirecting the water from the roof to infiltrate the soil. Just make sure to direct the water at least 1.5 m from your building foundation, without doing anything detrimental to your neighbours.

RECOVERING RAINWATER…
to preserve your landscaping

A gutter equipped with a simple, inexpensive device that directs the rainwater toward the lawn, the vegetable garden, the landscaping or trees helps hydrate the soil and better preserve vegetation during dry spells.

Under Bylaw 2008-47 on water purification, issued by the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal:

When drainage water from roofs is collected by a gutter system [...], this water must be directed onto the surface of the soil, at least 1.5 metres from a building, while avoiding infiltration toward any foundation drain.

RECOVERING RAINWATER…
to help cut down on watering and on rainwater flowing into the sewer

Storing rainwater in reservoirs helps build up a reserve of unchlorinated water, ideal for watering the garden and plants, in addition to saving drinking water.

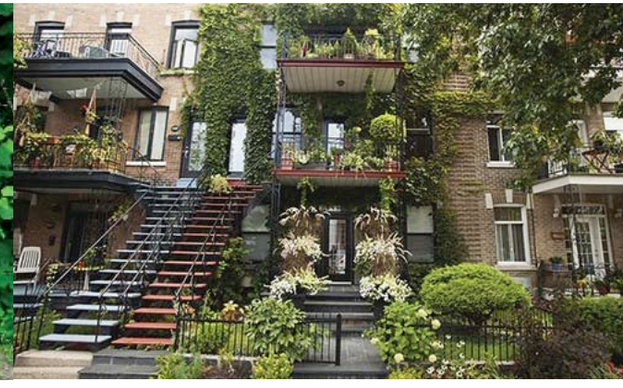
Place your barrel at a certain height in order to take advantage of the effect of gravity when watering. "Ready-to-install" equipment is available in hardware stores.

Once your rain barrel has reached maximum capacity, make sure that the surplus water is directed toward a penetrable surface.

Did you know that...
Installing a rain barrel = 80,000 litres of roof run-off water annually diverted from the sewer and available for your watering. A good option for saving drinking water!

Did you also know…
that since June 2013, there is a new bylaw on the use of drinking water that limits watering times.

PREVENT HEAT STROKE
GO GREEN!



In summer, plants keep walls in the shade, preventing heat build-up there. In winter, the falling leaves help store the heat of the sun.

Plants also help purify and refresh the air.
A vegetation barrier may be set up directly on the outside surface materials of your building or by growing climbing plants on a lattice support, a few inches from the wall.

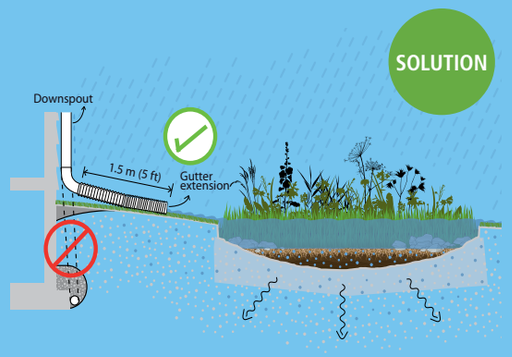
Climbing plants on south and west walls of a traditional house may cut down up to 25% on air conditioning costs (*Labrecque and Vergriete, 2007*).

How can you do more?
Grow a rain garden.
If your grounds are suitable for a rain garden, consider growing one. Select plants that like to have their "feet in the water".

WHAT IMPACT DO THESE CLIMATE CHANGES HAVE ON AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT?

Heavy rainstorms are increasingly frequent. During these downpours, large amounts of water flowing into the sewage system in record time may cause sewer backup.

If you have a sloping roof, disconnect your gutters from the sewage systrem! This action will help reduce the large volume of water already flowing during heavy rainstorms.



Would you like information to select the techniques and equipment best suited to your environment?

Contact your Éco-quartier or an environmental organization in your area. There you will be able to obtain advice or get a referral to a specialized resource.

Further information may be found on our website at:

ville.montreal.qc.ca/eaudemontreal

The suggestions in this pamphlet are of a general nature and may not suit all buildings. Since each building has its own specific characteristics, a professional should be consulted in order to make sure that any of the suggested methods is appropriate.

Studio de design graphique, **Ville de Montréal** 4529 (03-14)

RECOVERING RAINWATER

Service de l'eau
Montréal

FACED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Year after year, Montréal's climate is changing. The summers tend to become longer, with more frequent heat waves and dry spells. Such situations contribute toward worsening already existing problems, including moisture deficiency, cracking of foundations in clay soil, loss of vegetation and withering of landscaping.

Nevertheless…
During heavy rainstorms, it is predicted that the rainfall will increase by 15% between now and the middle of the century.

No. of days with temperature of 30°C and over in Montréal

* 1981-2010 average	Year 2012	Forecast 2030-2040
10 days	16 days	46 days

Source: Environment Canada