

xylem
Let's Solve Water



RAINY DAY

Activity Book





**In Manchester,
rain is part of who
we are. It shapes
our city, our
spirit, and
our football.**

***We see rain as
an opportunity.***



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT RAINS IN MANCHESTER

Every drop counts

Manchester knows rain, but it's what we do with it that makes the difference.

Together with Xylem, we're turning rainfall into a resource: capturing, recycling, and reusing water across our training ground and pitches.

Manchester ranks as the **second rainiest city in the UK (behind Cardiff)** according to a 2024 study, proof that we're truly a city shaped by rain.

Rain begins high over the Pennines, where moist air cools and forms clouds. When those clouds burst, water falls back to Earth, nature's way of recycling.

Once the rain reaches Manchester, some soaks into the ground (or our pitches) to feed parks and gardens. The rest runs off into drains and rivers – the Irwell, Medlock, and Mersey – flowing through the city and eventually out to sea.



RAIN WATER HARVESTING AT CITY & HOW RAINWATER CAN BE USED FOR GOOD



1. Capture

Rain and irrigation runoff from the Etihad Stadium and City Football Academy are captured on-site.



2. Storage

Captured water is held in a 12-million-litre underground attenuation tank for reuse.



3. Treatment

Water is treated using Xylem technology so it can be safely reused.



4. Supplement

An underground borehole, raised using a Xylem pump, provides an additional non-mains water source.



5. Irrigate

The City Football Academy is now 100% self-sufficient for pitch irrigation.

IMPACT



80M+ litres saved

Real-time monitoring with Xylem Vue has saved over 80 million litres of potable water.



Reuse 100% by 2026

Supports the goal to reuse 100% of on-site stormwater by 2026.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF MANCHESTER RAIN

If you live here, you'll know, Manchester doesn't just do rain. It specialises in it. Here's a quick guide to the Manchester Rain League:

THE MANY FACES OF MANCHESTER RAIN



That Fine Rain

You barely notice it at first... until you're somehow drenched. Soft, sneaky, and quietly relentless



Sideways Rain

Usually spotted on matchdays. Comes at you like it's got something to prove. Umbrellas don't stand a chance.



Soak-You-Right-Through Rain

Starts heavy and just keeps going. The kind that makes you feel like you've walked through a car wash — but the city shines afterwards.



Blink-and-It's-Gone Rain

A sudden burst that clears as quickly as it came. The rainbow chaser's favourite.



Drizzle Deluxe

A sudden burst that clears as quickly as it came. The rainbow chaser's favourite.



Big Match Storm

Thunder, lightning, and drama in the skies — just to remind us who's really in charge.



HOW TO HARVEST RAINWATER AT HOME

How to collect it:



Fit a water butt under your roof drainpipe – they fill quickly after a downpour.



Add a diverter and filter to channel clean rainwater into your tank.



Install a larger rain tank for gardens or shared spaces.



Go green on your roof – plants can absorb, clean and store rainwater naturally.



Collect ground runoff from patios or driveways with small drains or soakaways.



Keep it covered to stop debris or insects getting in.

Putting rainwater to work

Once collected, your stored rain can do more than you think:



Water your garden or lawn – plants thrive on soft, natural rainwater.



Wash your car or bike – saves water and money.



Rinse patios and windows – perfect for cleaning outdoor spaces.



Top up ponds and compost – keeps nature and soil healthy.

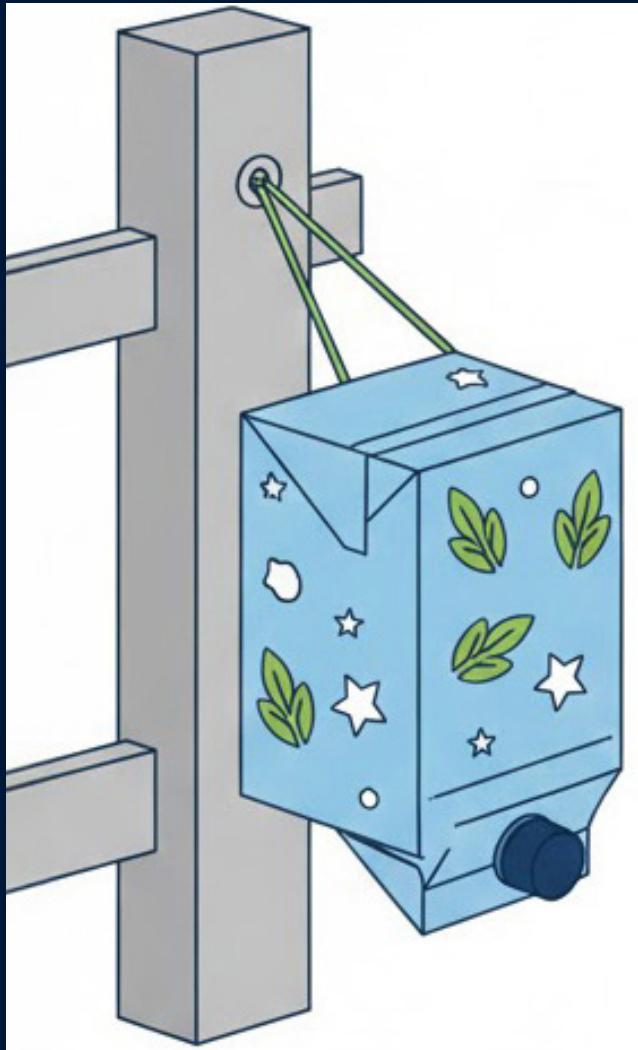


Flush toilets (with the right setup) – a huge saver on treated water.



Store for dry spells – great for gardens and cleaning when rainfall slows.

MINI WATER BUTT COMPETITION



Build your own mini water butt and turn Manchester's rain into free water for your garden. It's an easy way to cut mains water use, save money, and show that Every Drop Counts.

Step by step guide

1. Grab your kit: An empty milk carton, scissors, string or cable ties, and some decorations.
2. Clean it: Wash out the carton and peel off any labels.
3. Cut it: Carefully snip off the base so water can collect when it's upside down.
4. Decorate it: Paint it, label it, make it fun – your rain catcher, your style.
5. Hang it up: Tie string around the top and hang it upside down from a fence or gutter. Keep the cap on to control the flow.
6. Catch & use: Let Manchester's rain do the rest! Use the water for plants compost, or cleaning outside.

Why it matters

- Reuses rain that would otherwise go to waste
- Saves mains water and money
- Keeps gardens happy
- Shows that in Manchester... Every Drop Counts

Mission accomplished? We'd love to see your completed Water Butt in action. Upload a picture here for your chance to win Man City Prizes

UPLOAD HERE

RAINY DAY FITS

Manchester's coat collection

Here's a quick guide to the city's most loyal rain defenders:



The Parka

The classic. Heavy, hooded, and built to survive sideways rain. Worn proudly from the terraces to the tram stop. Best worn zipped right up to the chin.



The Kagool

Lightweight, foldable, and perfect for surprise showers. It rustles, it flaps, it saves the day — the true unsung hero of matchday wardrobes.



The Puffer

For when the drizzle turns chilly. Big, warm, and about as close as you'll get to wearing a duvet outside.



The Windbreaker

Great for a blustery walk down Deansgate, not so great in a downpour. Stylish, sure — but risky without backup.



The Technical Jacket

Zips, layers, waterproof ratings, the lot. You look like you're off up a mountain, but really you're just popping to the chippy.

The Optimist
Not really a coat at all. Just a hoodie and hope. Usually spotted about ten minutes before the heavens open.

