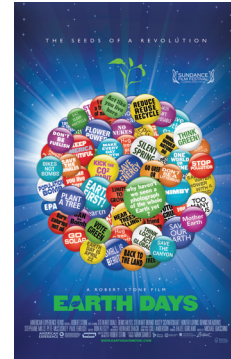




[MEDIA WATCH]

TUNE IN Dual documentaries showing this April on public television highlight the intimate relationship between the planet's health and well-being and our own:



EARTH DAYS • APRIL 19

Explore the origins of Earth Day with such pioneering activists as Whole Earth Catalog creator Stewart Brand. Their witness, along with the film's stunning imagery, can inspire us all to keep the home fires burning clean and bright on planet Earth.



DIRT! THE MOVIE • APRIL 20

Soil is very much alive. Cherished as necessary to our sustenance by environmentalists, including Edible Schoolyard founder Alice Waters, it's celebrated in this engaging film as a resource that doesn't get near enough respect.

Rainy Day Savings

Recycle Mother Nature's April showers with the aid of a rain barrel, and you'll not only grow your May flowers—you can also water your lawn, vegetable garden, or houseplants, even wash the car with the raindrops you harvest. And you'll be helping out Mother Nature too. "As it rolls down your driveway or yard, rainwater collects bacteria from pollutants like asphalt, animal waste, and pesticides," says Julian Duval, president and CEO of San Diego Botanic Garden. Those pollutants can be carried into the storm water system, which may empty into lakes or rivers. But if you catch all that "free" water before it's polluted, you benefit the Earth as well as your wallet. Some municipalities provide rain barrels for free, or at a discount; check with your local water department about available programs and incentives. Learn more, including all about easy installation, at rainbarrelguide.com.

—GINA ROBERTS-GREY

Toothpaste does double duty as a polish for your silverware, cutlery, and metal cooking pots. [Source: *Do One Green Thing: Saving the Earth Through Simple, Everyday Choices*, by Mindy Pennybacker]

[GREEN TIP]