

Every Drop Counts...

Benefits of Installing a Rain Barrel

Perserve Water - Perserve the Environment

Try a rain barrel in your yard to use 'free' water for irrigation and limit what you run from the tap.

By installing a rain barrel at your home, you will:

- Reduce flooding in your yard or your basement, by collecting the water and using it for watering plants or slowly releasing it and allowing it to sink into the ground.
- Save money and water. Instead of water from the tap or faucet, you can use the water you've saved to keep your home landscape happy and growing. You'll also reduce your water bill!
- Protect our streams and rivers from pollution! Water stored in your rain barrel is water that won't rush off into our streams and rivers.

It starts with you.

For additional information on how you can help and for many tips, please visit: www.wateruseitwisely.com.

Information courtesy of the White River Watershed Project and Centers for Disease Control



Rain Barrels: 5 things to consider

Rain Barrels are an environmentally friendly way to minimize water usage (and reduce a homeowners water costs) during warmer months. An effective stormwater management solution, rain barrels collect runoff from rooftops that can be used for other things, such as watering the lawn, flowers, or washing patio furniture.

Using a rain barrel reduces the volume of water that needs to be treated through storm drains, minimizing localized flooding and erosions. Re-using this harvested rain water for home use eliminates 100 percent of the toxins, solids, metals and

pathogens that would have reached downstream water bodies through the storm sewer.

Attached to a home's downspout, rain barrels work by delivering water through the force of gravity. Rain water from the roof's surface collects in the rain barrel. A hose attached to a nozzle in the barrel allows this water to be re-used for outdoor watering needs.

Want to install a rain barrel? Visit HarvestH2O.com to learn how.

1. **Locate your rain barrel on level and stable ground**
2. **Ensure your rain barrel is watertight and has a smooth interior surface**
3. **Empty the water in your rain barrel weekly to eliminate the chances of attracting mosquitoes and other bugs**
4. **Disconnect your rain barrel to prevent freezing during the winter months**
5. **DO NOT collect the run-off from tar and gravel, asbestos shingle, or treated cedar shake rooftops**



Source information for this article
provided with permission by the EPA

Building a Rain Barrel— Easy as 1-2-3!



Barrel Basics

First, you will need a strong plastic barrel in which to store water. Check with local restaurants or food manufacturers to find re-usable, food-grade barrels, look for barrels at your local garden supply or hardware store. Additionally there are dozens of varieties available online. A typical set-up is a diversion line which runs from your rain gutter downspout, a length of tubing, and one or more barrels with a cover. The barrel will be mounted with a spigot or hose hitting at the bottom for water withdrawal. You can also buy free standing systems designed to collect rainwater on their own. The barrel itself must be sturdy. A 50 gallon unit will weigh over 400 pounds when full, more than enough to burst a plastic garbage can. You can buy them up to about 80 gallons in a variety of shapes, and it's possible to daisy chain several together. Look for a unit with a screen for excluding debris and insects (crucial in mosquito prone areas) and a secure lid to keep out animals and curious children. Plastic barrels should feature opaque coloring to discourage algae growth and UV-resistant plastic.

Required Tools and Supplies

Tools:

1. Power drill with hole bit (1/16" smaller than faucet insert) and pilot drill bit (A 3/4" faucet measures 1" on the outside so you need a 15/16" hole bit).
2. Pliers to tighten washers
3. Paper towels (for excess caulk)
4. Utility knife or small saber saw to cut lid.
5. Scissors to cut screening
6. Hacksaw to shorten downspout
7. Screwdriver for hose clamp

Supplies:

1. 3/4" faucet (measures 1" on outside)
2. Washers and lock nut for the faucet
3. Caulk (clear plumber's)
4. Screening (Buy a roll that is used to repair screen windows. Nylon fabric-like netting is better than the metal type).
5. Hose adapter for your overflow. (Many options here depending on where you want your overflow to go).
6. Washer and lock nut needed for the adapter.
7. Hosing (short piece) to connect one barrel to another, if you want to have multiple barrels. Hose clamps as needed.
8. Bricks or cinder blocks to raise your barrel above the ground (this will improve water pressure).

Now Put Together Your Barrel!

1. Drill a hole near the bottom of the barrel where your faucet will be.
2. Caulk around the outside of the hole.
3. Screw faucet in, using a washer.
4. Caulk inside, then put on lock nut with washer and tighten with pliers.
5. Drill a hole near the top for overflow, where water will flow out when your barrel is full.
6. Put in a hose adapter for overflow with washers and tighten with pliers.
7. Pull out center of lid.
8. Cut screen larger than lid (the screen will be placed on the top of the lid, and will help keep out debris and mosquitoes).
9. Level the dirt under the rain barrel, then add some sand.
10. Rain barrels need to be higher than ground level—use bricks or cinder blocks to give your barrels some height.
11. Measure and cut off part of the downspout, making sure it is a few inches above the barrel.
12. Put the barrel in place, securing the screen over it with the lid, and placing it under the downspout.
13. Connect the overflow from one barrel to the next, or have overflow hose divert excess rain to a garden or distant area of your choice, away from your home's foundation.