

Rain Barrels

Why rain barrels?

Rain barrels collect runoff from roofs and store it for later uses. Rain barrels help homeowners save money on their water bill, reduce or prevent basement flooding and lessen flooding and pollution in local waterways!



Tips for rain barrel maintenance

- Clean your gutters regularly to ensure clear passages for the rain to flow into your rain barrel
- Make sure your rain barrel is placed on a sturdy and level base to avoid the possibility of toppling over. 400 or more lbs of water spilling is no fun!
- During severe storms, check your rain barrel to make sure all of the overflows are working correctly
- Make sure all overflow pipes or hoses are directed towards pervious surfaces to prevent pooling of water
- Drain and remove your rain barrel for the winter to prevent ice damage. Remember to reconnect your rain spout in order to direct water away from your foundation when the rain barrel is not in use.
- If your rain barrel springs a small leak, most can be repaired with aquarium caulk, found at most hardware stores
- Make sure the top of the rain barrel is covered in mesh to prevent mosquitos from getting in

Remember- the water from your rain barrel is **not potable**- do not drink it!



How to install a rain barrel

1. Make sure your roof is clean and gutter is free of debris
2. Pick a place for your rain barrel that is on solid, level ground and under a shortened downspout
Place a few landscaping pavers or cinder blocks below the barrel to raise it a few inches. This will improve water pressure and make it easier to reach the spigot or use a watering can
3. Arrange the barrel so that the overflow valve is facing away from your home's foundation
4. Wait for rain and enjoy your new source of water to water your flowers, shrubs, trees and lawn or rinse off your hands/feet, gardening tools or muddy shoes!



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