



Rain Barrels

How-To Sheet

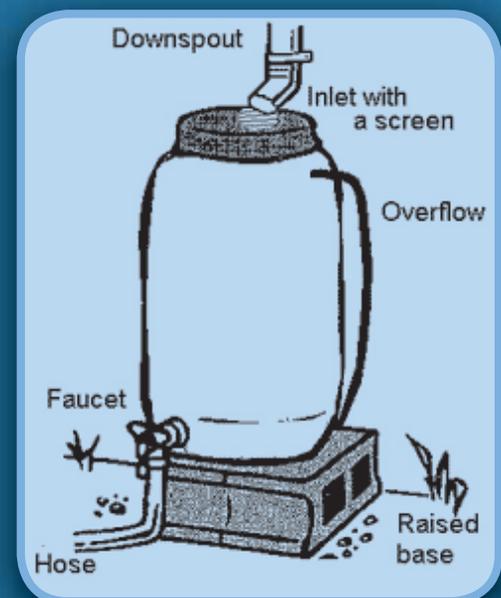
Rain Barrel Benefits

Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when you need it most (during periods of drought) to water plants, wash your car, or top a swimming pool. It provides an ample supply of free "soft water" to homeowners, containing no chlorine, lime, or calcium.

This makes it ideal for gardens, flower pots, and car and window washing. A rain barrel will save most homeowners about 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months. Saving water not only helps protect the environment, it saves you money and energy (reducing your water bill and sewage bill). Diverting water from storm drains also decreases the impact of runoff to streams and rivers. As you use the stored rain water around the home and garden, it will absorb slowly into the ground, replenishing groundwater supplies. By decreasing the volume of storm runoff, rain barrels also help moderate stream erosion and the resulting pollution that is impairing our waterways. So rain barrels are another way that you can GO GREEN. Therefore, a rain barrel is an easy way for you to help protect our watersheds, save yourself money, and provide a consistent supply of clean, fresh water for outdoor use, for free!

Materials List

- 55-Gallon Barrel (or comparable size)
To purchase a previously used recycled barrel:
 - B&B Box & Drum
1527 W. Miller St., Indianapolis, 317-639-5185
\$20 per barrel
 - Rain Barrels & More
www.rainbarrelsandmore.com
- Screen Material (Window Screening, Paint Sprayer Filter, or other mesh material)
- 3/4" (or 1/2") Brass Faucet
- 3/4" (or 1/2") Hose Adapter
- Downspout Elbow or Extension (if needed)
- All-Purpose Caulk, Teflon Tape, or Similar Sealant
- 2 Landscape Blocks for Raised Base



Instructions

1. Cut a 6" hole in the top of your barrel (using a Jig Saw, Keyhole Saw, or 6" Hole Saw). Cover this opening with a screen (window screen, paint sprayer filter, or some mesh material), and secure above the opening with a clamp or below the opening screwing the barrel lid over the screen.
2. Drill 2 holes with a 29/32" drill bit, one towards the top for the overflow and one toward the bottom of the barrel for the faucet. Screw the 3/4" Adapter into the upper hole and 3/4" Faucet into the lower hole, using either Teflon Tape around the threads or a sealant (Caulk) on the outside for a water-tight seal. Attach a hose to the adapter to direct the overflow water away from your house (away from the foundation)
3. Place two cinder or landscape blocks under the selected downspout and place the barrel on this raised base.
4. Cut your downspout about 4" above the top of the barrel. If needed, attach an elbow so the downspout reaches just above the barrel opening.
5. If you want to add additional barrels, place an identical barrel beside the first (without the opening on the top), and connect with an equalization line made out of clear tubing or PVC pipe.



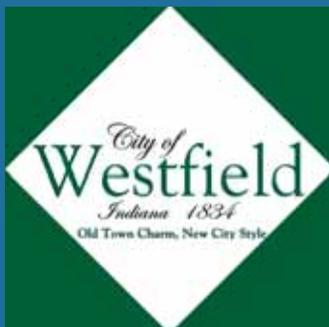
Your Rain Barrel is ready to use! Enjoy!

CAUTION: Do not use rain barrels for drinking, cooking, or bathing. If your roof is asphalt, you should not collect water for vegetable gardens.

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