



What is a Rain Barrel?



A rain barrel collects and stores rain water from your rooftop which you can later use to water your lawn or garden, or to wash your car. *Using a rain barrel is a great first step to healthier rivers and lakes!*

Rain barrels come in different sizes as well as a variety of colors and styles to match just about any home.



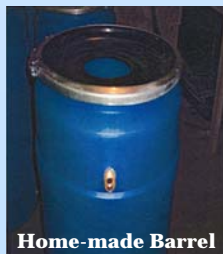
Purchased Barrel

Why should I use a rain barrel?

- ◆ Lawn and garden water makes up approximately 40% of total household water use in the summer. A rain barrel can save you money in the summer by lowering your water bill by reducing irrigation water usage.
- ◆ Collected rainwater is better for plants because it is not chlorinated like your tap water is.
- ◆ Reduce water pollution by reducing stormwater runoff which can contain pollutants.
- ◆ Storing rainwater for lawn and garden use helps recharge the groundwater which feeds local rivers.

Overview:

- ◆ Most barrels have screened lids to keep mosquitoes, leaves and debris out.
- ◆ The barrels are designed with an overflow feature to keep water away from the foundation of your home.
- ◆ Barrels may need to be elevated to allow water flow to gardens and/or your lawn.
- ◆ Easy to install.



Home-made Barrel

Where can I purchase a rain barrel?

Many home improvement retailers carry rain barrels. They are also available at numerous online retailers.

Another option is to make your own rain barrel with help from online resources. If you are trying to make your own rain barrel, remember 1 gallon of water weighs 8.33 lbs. so a 50 gallon barrel full of water would weigh almost 417 lbs., a sturdy & level base is necessary.

Internet Resources

NEBRASKA
H₂O

Down spout

Montgomery County, PA Rain Barrel Program

http://www.montgomeryconservation.org/barrel_program.htm

Rain Barrel Guide

<http://rainbarrelguide.com>

City of Austin Texas, Rain Barrel Program

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/rbfaq.htm>

Maryland Green Building Program

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/ed/rainbarrel.html>

3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program

http://www.3riverswetweather.org/f_resources/f_barrel.stm

Inlet with
a screen

Overflow

Faucet

Hose

Raised
base



The City of Scottsbluff does not offer rebates or incentives to use rain barrels, other than cost savings from reduced water consumption.