

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO RAIN BARRELS



River Raisin
WATERSHED COUNCIL
Partner · Protect · Preserve

What is a rain barrel?

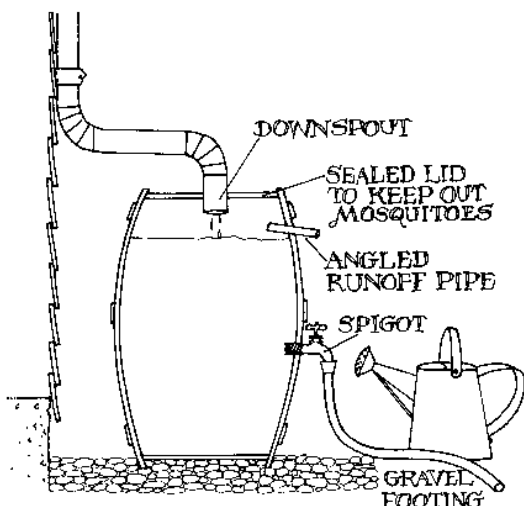
A rain barrel is a device that collects the rain water from your roof and holds it until you need it to water your landscaping or lawn.

Advantages of a Rain Barrel

- Saves thousands of gallons of water during the summer
- Reduces pollution by reducing storm water run off
- How to calculate the number of gallons of roof runoff your rain barrel is collecting:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \text{(Feet of Rain)} \\ \text{(Roof Width in Feet)} \\ \text{(Roof Length in Feet)} \\ \text{X (Gallons per cubic Foot)} \end{array}}{\text{Gallons of runoff}}$$

- Relieves water treatment plants of unnecessary treatment of rain water, saving natural resources.
- Provides water without chlorine, lime or calcium which is better for your landscaping, and lawn



BUILDING A RAIN BARREL

How to Assemble a Rain Barrel

1. Drill 3, 3/4" holes:
first hole: 2"-3" above the bottom
second hole: 12" above the bottom (Optional for ball valve, for filling a bucket)
third hole: 2" from top
2. Thread and remove 3/4" hose barbs into top and bottom holes
3. Thread and remove optional ball valve faucet in center hole
4. Apply Teflon tape and PVC pipe sealant to ball valve thread and both barb threads
5. Completely thread barbs and ball valve into holes. Let dry for 24 hrs.
6. Cut 4" diameter hole in center of top of barrel
7. Insert atrium grate upside down into the hole
8. Lay screen over spout adapter over grate
9. Trim screen to size
10. Attach hose to lower barb with hose clamp
11. Attach 5/8" hose barb to free end of vinyl hose with hose clamp (garden hose would be attached to this end).



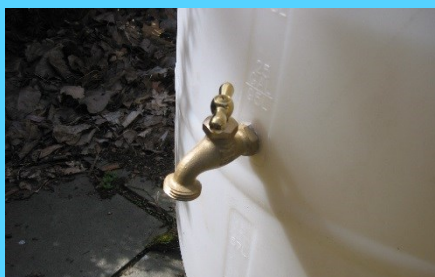
Lower hose barb and attached vinyl hose.



Upper hose barb for water overflow.



Top hole for water entry from down spout.



Optional ball valve for filling a bucket.

Parts needed:

- 55 Gallon drum
- 2—3/4" thread hose barb for 1/2" ID hose
- 1—5/8" Thread hose barb for 1/2" ID hose
- Optional: 3/4" Thread ball valve faucet
- 1/2" ID vinyl hose (4 ft section and enough for your specific application)
- 3—Hose clamps to fit vinyl hose OD
- PVC pipe sealant
- Teflon tape
- 4" Atrium grate
- 7" Diameter screen material (for mosquito control)
- 4 1/2" Diameter to 3"x4" downspout adapter offset
- 2"x3" Flex-elbow downspout

Tools Needed:

- Drill with 3/4" drill bit
- Jig saw or equivalent
- Flat screwdriver
- Scissors
- Pliers

★ **TIP: you can decorate your rain barrel for added beauty in your garden!**

