

# Roll Out the Rain Barrel!



One inch of rain falling onto 100 square feet of rooftop yields 62 gallons of water. A rain barrel installed at your home can capture thousands of gallons of water over the course of 1 year!

## Rain Barrels...

- Provide a source of **free** water to use in lawns and flower gardens.
- Do not harbor mosquitoes if sealed tightly with a solid lid or mesh screen.
- Can save and hold water to be used during a dry spell.

A rain barrel is a large container placed beneath a gutter downspout to capture the rain falling off the rooftop.

In even the smallest rain events, hundreds of gallons of water can flow through the downspout. Rain barrels are able to handle this enormous amount of water with the help of a hose attached to the top side of the barrel. As the barrel fills, excess water empties out through the hose so that the barrel will not overflow. A second hose can be attached to a spigot on the bottom front of the barrel, which empties water from the barrel and delivers it to a nearby garden or lawn.



## The benefits of rain barrels transcend your backyard...

*Although rain barrels have been traditionally used for water conservation, their use in an urban area can bring many environmental benefits to your neighborhood.*



### 💧 Reduce Storm Water Runoff

By capturing the rain flowing through a gutter downspout, a rain barrel can prevent that water from washing off pollutants, like pet waste, automotive fluids and lawn chemicals, from driveways and yards.

### 💧 Protect Water Quality and Fish

When these pollutants enter storm drains, they end up in lakes and streams where they can harm fish. Instead, rain barrels encourage water to soak into the ground, providing a more steady supply of water for stream critters.

### 💧 Decrease "Flash Flooding"

Many rain barrels used in a localized area can help reduce the volume of water that flows down driveways into streets during heavy rainstorms. Minimizing the quantity of water that flows into streets and storm drains can also prevent sewage overflows into lakes and streams.



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Flip over for a "Buyer's Guide to Rain Barrels"





# Rain Barrel Buyer's Guide

*Whether you are shopping for a pre-made rain barrel or you are planning to build your own, the following guidelines can help you find or build the best rain barrel.*

The rain barrel should have a mechanism to handle excess water. Most barrels have a hose adapter installed on the side of the barrel a few inches from the top, while other barrels have an overflow port. Whether the barrel has an adapter or a port, be sure that it has threads so that a hose can be attached to carry water to a lawn or garden. A metal adapter or port is better than plastic.

Make sure the container is made of food-grade plastic to ensure no harmful chemicals will leach into the water held inside.

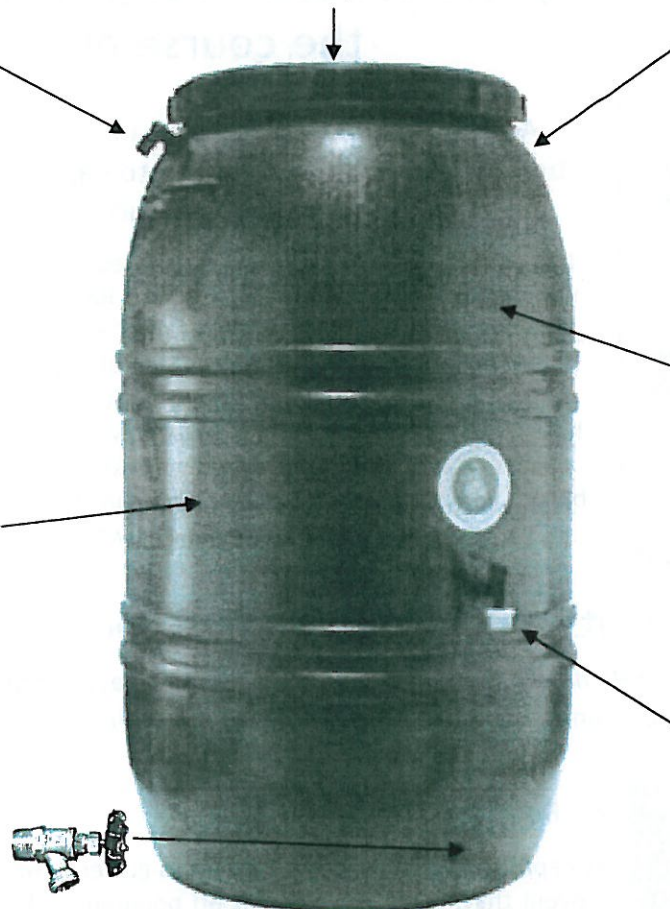
The barrel should have a spigot on the bottom front of the barrel. The spigot should be made of brass or metal. Be sure that it is threaded so that a hose can be attached.

Find a barrel with a removable or screw-on lid. This will allow you to easily clean out the inside the barrel. Think about how you will use the lid to get water from the downspout into the barrel.\*

The barrel should have an additional overflow port so that a second barrel can be connected in series if you want to capture even more water.

A rain barrel should be painted a dark color because clear or white barrels can let in sunlight and foster algae growth. You can paint a rain barrel to make it fit in better with the landscape. Use a paint that will adhere to plastic.

A rain barrel can have an additional spout or drain located half way up the side of the barrel. This can be used to manually fill a watering can or other container.



\* We recommend using a downspout diverter to connect the downspout to the lid of the barrel. Some downspout diverters also automatically handle excess water. They can be purchased from garden supply stores on the internet.

Local Rain Barrel Suppliers			
Nightingale Mills	4068 South Street	Marcellus, NY 13108	(315) 673-2001
Twin Oaks Nursery	4107 New Court Ave	Syracuse, NY 13206	(315) 437-9678
Ballantyne Gardens	4825 Hopkins Road	Liverpool, NY 13088	(315) 453-0621
Chuck Hafner's Garden Center	7625 Buckley Road	N. Syracuse, NY 13212	(315) 451-2231
Local Food-Grade Container Suppliers...to build your own rain barrel!			
The Syracuse Barrel Company	317 Burnet Ave	Syracuse, NY 13206	(315) 479-7249
Bronstein Container Company	1313 Rams Gulch Road	Jamesville, NY 13078	(315) 469-6191

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