

Rain Barrels



Connect two rain barrels by installing the overflow hose from the first rain barrel into the drilled hole of the second rain barrel.



A single rain barrel with a drip hose connected to the spigot.

Purpose:

Rain barrels capture water from your roof gutter system and store it for later use on lawns, gardens, or indoor plants. Collecting this roof runoff reduces the amount of water that flows over your property, therefore reducing the potential for polluted stormwater.

Materials:

A rain barrel can typically be purchased from a local hardware store or your county soil and water conservation district. Alternatively, you can build your own with these materials.

- Barrel (55+ gallon plastic drum)
- Mosquito proof screen
- Cinder blocks or lumber
- Spigot
- Connector hose to connect multiple rain barrels (optional)
- Tools: wire cutter, drill/hole saw

Installation:

1. Numerous instructional videos for building your own rain barrel exist online, which, at a minimum, include these steps:
 - a. Drill a hole near the bottom for installing a spigot
 - b. Cut the mosquito proof screen to fit over the top opening of your barrel
 - c. Drill a hole near the top for an optional overflow hose and connection to additional barrels
2. Underneath a gutter downspout, create a level, raised platform for your rain barrel(s) using cinder blocks or lumber. The higher your platform, the more flow and pressure you will have.
3. Connect a hose to the spigot for reusing water.

Maintenance:

- Remove leaves and other debris from the screen after each storm.
- Clean gutters and downspouts of debris regularly. Clogged gutters can prevent water from reaching the rain barrel.
- To prepare for winter, drain and store your rain barrel indoors or, for outdoor storage, turn it upside down and anchor it with something heavy.

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more information



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**Portland
Water
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From Sebago Lake to Casco Bay