

Rain Barrels Save Money, Conserve Water, and Protect Our Rivers

About 40% of typical household water use is for lawns and gardens. Instead of paying for this water—on your utilities bill, or on the electric bill for a well pump—you can capture the water from your roof, store it, and draw on it for your gardening needs. Rainwater is oxygenated, non-chlorinated, low in minerals, and warmer—better for plants and better for the environment.



You can make your own rain barrel for about \$5.00 in parts. All you need is a recycled barrel made of food-grade plastic that holds 50-85 gallons. For a parts list and step by step instructions, go to http://raingardens.org/Rain_Barrels.php.

The manufactured rain barrels demonstrated at the township buildings provide varying capacity—some link in series for more storage. They may be ordered online, through catalogs, or may also be available at your local garden supply store (saving you the shipping cost). A kit should be ordered to link two barrels. Assembly is required. Some barrels come with mosquito screens; mosquito “donuts” can be placed in the barrel to control larvae.

Manufacturers recommend placing the barrels on a strong base (capable of supporting the weight of the full barrel @ 8 lbs per gallon) and at least one foot above the ground, so that you have adequate pressure for watering. (To fill a 5-gallon bucket, you need to have the barrel’s bottom faucet 16 inches above the ground.) If your downspouts are currently connected into footing drains, you will also need to install a diverter for seasonal use with the rain barrel.

1. DeLuxe English Rain Barrel: 76 gallons

Green, molded to resemble wooden barrel, of recycled plastic resins
<http://www.composters.com/docs/rainbarrels.html>

2. Whisky Rain Barrel: 45 gallons

Dark wood finish, real oak--Harmony Catalog or
<http://www.gaiam.com/retail/product.asp?catalog%5Fname=gai&category%5Fname=13%5FGardeningCompostingOutdoor&product%5Fid=14%2D0219+MSTR>
Or Atlantic Rain Barrel (Product of Canada)
USA Distributor, Star Rte. 27, Coburn Gare, ME, 04936.

3. Stacking Hexagonal Rain Barrels: 54 gallons

Molded textured plastic in choice of sandstone, adobe, or evergreen
Handmade arts and crafts style rain chains available by the lineal foot
Arid Solutions, Inc.
<http://www.aridsolutionsinc.com/page/page/1117909.htm>

4. Urban Rain Barrel: 57 gallons

Black recycled plastic barrel, economy-priced
<http://www.thecomposter.com/products/rainbarrel/index.html>