What is a Rain Barrel?

A rain barrel is a tool used to harvest rainwater off of an impervious surface (roof top). Once this water is collected it can be used in other places.

Murfreesboro
Water & Sewer Department
Stormwater Management

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### Benefits of using a Rain Barrel

- Saves money on outdoor water usage
- Reduces erosion
- Improves fish and wildlife habitat
- Easy and inexpensive to build
- Reduces the amount of pesticides, herbicides, salt, oil and gasoline being washed into storm drains and into our natural waterways
- Saves water when you need it most - between rainfalls and during periods of drought
- Water can be used to wash pets, vehicles, windows, water plants, and much more
- Free of chlorine, lime and calcium - perfect for keeping plants happy!
- Helps control moisture levels around the foundation of the house
- Reduces risk of basement flooding

### How to make a Rain Barrel

#### Materials
- Food container or screw top barrel (available at most co-ops)
- Spigot
- 4 washers
- 2 o-rings
- 2 nuts
- Hose connector
- Aluminum screen mesh
- Sheet metal screws

#### Instructions
- Drill 7/8 hole near the bottom of the barrel for spigot assembly
- Put washer then o-ring onto spigot then push through the hole in the barrel
- Place a washer on the inside of the barrel around spigot then tighten all of the assembly with a nut
- Cut square out of the screw top of barrel then screw mesh in with the sheet metal screws
- Repeat 1st and 2nd steps with hose connector for overflow

### FAQ’s about Rain Barrels

**Do the rain barrels attract mosquitoes?**
When built properly, the barrels will include a screen mesh that eliminates this problem.

**Do you have to worry about the barrel getting full?**
No, an overflow valve can be made to where a hose can be attached to direct water wherever you desire.

**Is there anyway to make the barrel more visually pleasing?**
Yes, the barrels come in many different colors and also can be painted. For examples, visit [http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/government/water_sewer/stormwater.htm](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/government/water_sewer/stormwater.htm).

Send us a picture of your decorated rain barrel and we’ll show it on our website. jupham@murfreesborotn.gov.

**Where can you buy a rain barrel?**
Rain barrels can be purchased through many gardening supply catalogs or via the Internet.