

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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http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/government/water_sewer/stormwater.htm



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.

Send us a picture of your decorated rain barrel and we'll show it on our website.

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Where can you buy a rain barrel?

Rain barrels can be purchased through many gardening supply catalogs or via the Internet.