

TOWN OF CEDAR POINT AND TOWN OF CAPE CARTERET

Simple Solutions: Rain Barrel



What is a Rain Barrel?

A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff. Rain barrels come in all shapes and sizes. They typically include the drum, a vinyl hose, PVC couplings and a screen to keep debris and insects out. A rain barrel is relatively simple and inexpensive to construct and can sit conveniently under any residential gutter down spout.

*Rainwater is free!
All you need to do
is collect it.*

Did you Know?

- ¼" of rain produces enough runoff to fill a typical rain barrel hooked up to one downspout. If you and your neighbors all added just one rain barrel, it would have a significant impact on flooding and pollution in your community.
- One 55 gallon rain barrel holds a full week's worth of water for a 10' x 10' garden

Benefits

- Lower water bills
- Reduced runoff and stormwater pollution
- Available water for watering plants during drought
- Rainwater contains natural nutrients needed for healthy plants

Helpful Hints

Always keep the lid to your barrel tightly secured to avoid any accidents involving children or animals. Please do not ever consume water collected in barrel!



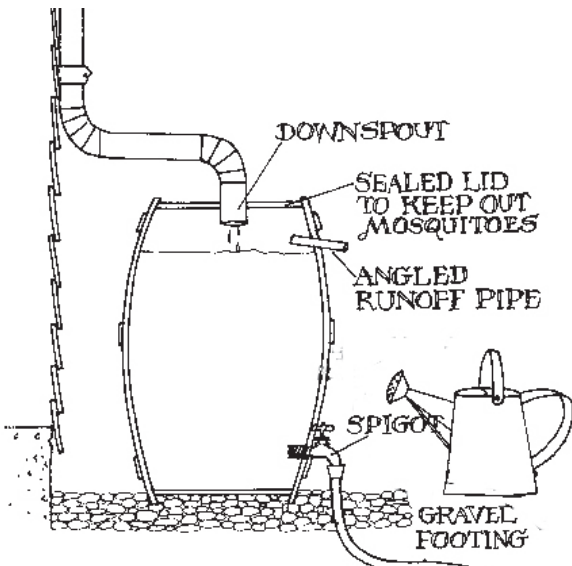
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How to size and install your rain barrel

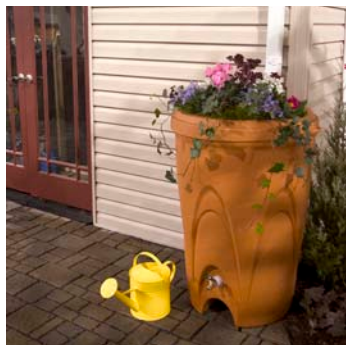
Most rain barrels are easy to install; however, actual installation methods may vary depending on the type of rain barrel. Installation of a typical barrel will involve disconnecting your downspout, cutting off a portion of the downspout and redirecting it into the top of the barrel. Most rain barrels have an overflow pipe that redirects the rainwater back into the downspout or onto your lawn or other surface in the event the barrel becomes full. Some rain barrels include safety features, spigots, connector barrels, mosquito proofing, and even water filters.

Care

- Use the water between rain events, or empty the barrel monthly
- Once a year, tip over the rain barrel and wash it out with a hose
- Clean your gutters regularly to prevent debris
- If you start to see algae, add one cap of chlorine bleach to a full barrel of water – this small amount won't hurt plants

References and Resources

- NC Cooperative Extension: www.ces.ncsu.edu; search rainwater
- NC State University: www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/click/waterharvesting
- NC Coastal Federation: www.nccoast.org; click low impact development



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