



***Rain barrels are low tech and low maintenance,
but there are few things you will want to do to keep
your rain barrel(s) working properly:***

- Check your rain barrel on a regular basis to make sure all openings are clean, free of debris and flowing freely.
- Clean your roof and gutters at least once a year to minimize debris in your stored rain water.
- Cover the intake hole with a plastic grate or skimmer basket covered with a nylon stocking or fine mesh screen to prevent debris, mosquitoes or other bugs from getting inside your rain barrel.
- During severe rain storms, check your rain barrel to make sure the overflows are working properly.
- During months when temperatures are below freezing (December-February), you might want to disconnect the barrel from the downspout to avoid the formation of ice which can damage your rain barrel. Avoid repeated freezing and thawing as this can weaken your barrel.
- Consider draining your rain barrel for the winter. Store upside down so ice doesn't form inside and crack the barrel.

Only use *food-grade* barrels.

- Avoid collecting rainwater from roofs that have been treated with chemicals (ie. moss killers, zinc strips, etc.).
- Never use your rain barrel water for drinking or washing. If you choose to use collected rainwater for growing edible fruits, vegetable or herbs, always rinse with tap water before consuming.
- Mosquito control is important. Drain your barrel often to prevent breeding. You can also help prevent mosquitoes from breeding by placing a tablespoon of vegetable oil in your barrel.
- Be sure to place your rain barrel(s) on a strong, sturdy, and flat base.

Please drain your rain barrel(s) prior to each rain event

Retaining and capturing water on your property = cleaner streams and rivers

Questions please contact:
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