

RAIN BARREL



- One inch of rain on a 1000 sq. ft. roof = 600 gallons of



A rain barrel kit comes with all of the materials necessary for set up!

- Rain barrels can attach directly to the downspout of existing storm drains and collect water from storm events.
 - Water collected in rain barrels can then be used to water lawns, flowers or for washing cars.
 - Having this extra water can cut down on water bills!
- Rain barrels prevent erosion by trapping high energy runoff during storm events.
 - Trapping this water protects nearby streams.

- Rain barrel water should not be used for drinking.
- Caution should be used when watering vegetable gardens with water from rain barrels.



- Certain roofing materials can leach harmful substances.
- Before using rain barrel water for vegetables be sure to check the material of your roof.



Painting a rain barrel is a great way to customize it and add a touch of your own personal style!

Photo courtesy of whatcom.wsu.edu

- Mosquitoes and algae in rain barrels can be prevented!
 - Using a lid and emptying your rain barrel regularly can prevent mosquitoes from becoming a problem.
 - Cleaning your rain barrel and its connections before setting them out each season or painting your rain barrel a dark color can reduce algal growth in your rain barrel!



RAIN FACT: If one inch of rain fell only on the surface of this paper it would be enough water to fill over four 12 oz soda cans!

RAIN BARREL



- **Wait** to put out your rain barrel out until after the last frost of the year
 - By mid-April there is usually a low chance of frost events.
- **Arrange** your rain barrel under a downspout that is close to an area where you want to use the water.
 - This will make it easier to use this free water!
- **Test** the ground under the area you have chosen for your rain barrel.
 - Make sure the ground that will be under your rain barrel is :
 1. Level-rain barrels are very heavy when full and you don't want to risk having your rain barrel fall over!
 2. Sturdy-if the ground beneath your rain barrel is easily compactable the weight of your full rain barrel may cause the it to sink into the ground!
- **Elevate** your rain barrel slightly above the area you want water with your rain barrel.
 - While rain barrels store water, they don't have pumps and rely completely on gravity for their water to flow. The higher you elevate your rain barrel, the greater the water pressure you will be able to produce.
- **Remember** to maintain your rain barrel properly.
 - Check the screen periodically to remove any leaves or debris.
 - Empty the rain barrel before each large rain event and allow it to refill with fresh rain water.
 - Remove your rain barrel and reconnect the downspout before the first frost each fall.