



Riverwoods Preservation Committee

A group of resident volunteers dedicated to preserving the ecological heritage of the community

RAIN BARRELS: PRACTICAL AND ENVIRONMENTALLY BENEFICIAL

Collecting rainwater for use during dry months is an ancient practice. Historical records show that rainwater was collected in simple clay containers as far back as 2,000 years ago in Thailand, and throughout other areas of the world after that. With the rising price of municipal water and moderate to severe watering restrictions now facing much of the United States during the summer months, more and more homeowners in our modern society are turning to the harvesting of rainwater to protect the environment and save money.

An easy and inexpensive way to collect rainwater is by connecting one or more rain barrels to your gutter downspout system. You can use a rain barrel even if you don't have gutters by positioning the barrel where two roof sections meet and create a valley. Most rain barrels come equipped with a spigot, a screen to keep out bugs, a diverter for overflows and a hose fitting to allow you to connect multiple barrels to one downspout.

How much water can you expect to collect? A house whose footprint is 1000 square feet will collect 600 gallons of water for every inch of rainfall! Rainwater can be used to water indoor or outdoor plants. In fact, plants thrive on the soft, chemical free properties of fresh rainwater.



In addition to the practical aspects of collecting rainwater, there is an environmental benefit. The protection of every natural resource is key to the survival of humankind. Fresh water is undoubtedly one of the most important of those natural resources. For those of us with access to the water wealth of the Great Lakes, it may be difficult to accept water scarcity. However, some experts believe that water will replace petroleum as the twenty-first century's core commodity.

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UpCycle Products Inc. Food Quality High Density Poly Ethylene Barrels that were previously used to ship pickled food overseas.

There are holes drilled into the lid for the water to drain into from your downspout. The screening keeps out the debris from the roof and keeps the mosquitoes out.

Because all our barrels have a garden hose size spigot at the bottom of the barrels you have several options on how to water your plants since a garden hose, landscape tubing or drip tubing can be attached to the barrel. If you wanted to use a watering can simply situate the barrel on a pedestal. The barrels also have an overflow fitting to allow the excess water that flows from the downspout to be diverted away from the barrel and a linking hose fitting so (2) or more barrels can be joined together and will all fill up from just (1) downspout.