

Rain Barrel Tips

1. Lid should be secure so that no children or animals can fall into the barrel.
2. If a moss killer has been used on a roof, let a couple of rainfall events occur before collecting roof runoff into the barrel.
3. Elevating the barrel will make access to the spigot and increase water pressure.
4. Consider joining multiple barrels for additional capacity.
5. Make sure the overflow is flowing away from the foundation of your house.
6. Disconnect the rain barrel in winter to prevent any freezing.

Mosquito Tips

Choose one of the following:

1. The screen on top will deter mosquitos from breeding in your barrel, but clean gutters are also key to keeping them out of your barrel.
2. Keep gutters clean to prevent debris/pools from forming and creating a mosquito breeding ground and prevent eggs and larvae from being washed down into the barrel.
3. Use a drop of dawn or food grade oil on the top of the water if mosquito larvae develop to break the surface tension.

Rain Barrel Workshops are available through the Lynchburg Community Market and The Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District.

For more information please contact:

Lynchburg Community Market
434-455-4489 or
Register at the LCM
Customer Service Window

Department of Water Resources
434-485-7246 or visit
<http://www.lynchburgva.gov/stormwater-credit-program>



**ROBERT E. LEE SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



Rain Barrels

Design and Maintenance Guide



Rain Barrel Basics

If you have a gutter and downspout system or roof on your property, you can build a rain barrel to gather water for a garden, flower beds or general lawn watering. Rain water can also be caught directly from your roof area. Water should not be collected for drinking, bathing or cooking purposes. To find a barrel, check with companies that buy bulk food ingredients or contact the Lynchburg Community Market at 434-455-4489

Tools Needed

- 2— 1"x3/4" reducing washers
- 2—3/4" locknuts
- 1— 3/4" hose bib
- 1—3/4" pipe to hose adaptor
- 1— Piece of Screen
- Hacksaw
- Pliers, Channel Lock
- 1" Hole Saw with 3/4" inside diameter
- Pencil
- Ruler

Making a Rain Barrel Continued

Next drill a hole a couple inches below the top of the barrel for the overflow valve (hose adaptor). Screw the pipe thread into the barrel using channel locks or pliers. Secure with a locknut on the inside of the barrel. A garden hose can be attached to the hose adaptor for overflow. **Remember that water will overflow from the top of your barrel in heavy rain fall events.**



If your barrel has a lid cut a hole where the shortened downspout will drain into. Cover the hole with a small piece of screen. If there is no lid, secure a large piece of window screen over the top. Cut excess screen to avoid interference with the overflow value.

Rain Barrel Capacity

1. Estimate the drainage area of your roof (length x width): Half of your roof area must drain to barrels
2. One gallon of storage must be provided for every 3ft² of roof area.
3. Determine rain barrel size and how many rain barrels are needed to treat half of your roof area.

Example: Roof length = 30', roof width = 20'
20' x 30' = 600ft² roof area

Half of roof area: $600/2 = 300 \text{ ft}^2$

$300/3 = 100$ gallons of capacity needed to treat half of roof area

Constructing two 50 gallon rain barrels or three 40 gallon rain barrels would achieve the needed capacity to qualify for a 20% credit. If additional storage is provided, more credit can be given.

Making A Rain Barrel

Before use, rain barrels should be cleaned thoroughly. Barrels that were previously used for motor oil or fuel products should not be considered when making a rain barrel. The area where your rain barrel will sit should be leveled. **Measure the existing downspout to the top of the barrel so you will know where to cut it off.**

First drill a hole in the barrel for the spigot. Drill the hole high enough to allow room for a bucket underneath or lower if you plan to elevate the barrel. Caulk the washer and screw the spigot into the barrel with the washer on the outside. Caulk the other washer and place inside the barrel and secure with the locknut. You can connect your garden hose to this spigot for watering.

