WHAT IS A RAIN BARREL?

A rain barrel is a barrel used to collect water from precipitation that is placed at the end of your gutter’s downspout. Rain barrels can be made of different materials and can range in sizes.

RAIN BARREL MAINTENANCE

Your rain barrel will last longer and work most efficiently with regular maintenance. Consistently inspecting your rain barrel to make sure it is functioning properly will save you from future maintenance costs. Depending on what type of rain barrel you have, it may require additional maintenance.

- Install guards or screens at the top of your downspout to prevent leaves and debris from traveling down it and into your rain barrel.
- Clear any debris from the screens at the top of your downspout and your roof gutters.
- Make sure all openings on your rain barrel are secure or covered by screens to keep out mosquitoes.
- Clean gutters regularly to prevent mosquitoes.
- When cleaning your rain barrel, use non-toxic chemicals, such as vinegar, to remove any dirt or algae.
- Drain your rain barrel before the winter season.
- Disconnect your rain barrel before the winter to avoid damage and reconnect it during the spring.
- Use the water in your rain barrel before a large rain event so that there is enough room.
- If you plan on going away for a long period of time, leave the spigot of your rain barrel open and make sure the water will drain into a place where it can soak into the ground.

RAIN BARRELS

The benefits of rain barrels and how you can set up and maintain your own.

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BENEFITS

- Save Money on Water Bills
- Reduce Amount of Runoff
- Mitigate Flooding
- Prevent Runoff Contamination
- Conserves Water

Northern New Jersey Community Foundation

201-568-5608 | www.nnjcf.org
Northern New Jersey Community Foundation
1 University Plaza, Suite 128, Hackensack, NJ 07601
HOW TO SET UP A RAIN BARREL.

1. **Build a foundation.**
   1A. Place gravel down to level out the area for your rain barrel.
   1B. On top of the gravel place concrete blocks for the barrel to sit on. You want your rain barrel to be elevated off the ground so you can easily access the spigot.

2. **Mark the height of your rain barrel on your gutter's downspout so you know exactly where to cut your downspout.**
   2A. Before you cut, make sure your downspout elbow adapter will also fit into the rain barrel.

3. **If your barrel doesn’t have a spigot, drill a hole about 5 inches from the bottom of your rain barrel for the spigot.**
   3A. Use a drill bit slightly smaller than the diameter of the spigot.
   3B. Use silicone caulk as adhesive for spigot.
   3C. Install the spigot.

4. **Drill an overflow hole in your rain barrel about 3 inches from the top. (If it doesn’t already have one).**
   4A. Use a drill bit slightly smaller than the diameter of your hose.
   4B. Attach hose in the overflow hole so you are able to redirect water to a drain or an area it can soak into the ground.

5. **Measure and cut out on open section on top of your rain barrel for your gutter’s downspout to go through.**
   5A. Attach elbow adapter to downspout.
   5B. Use silicone caulk to fill any open space where mosquitoes may be able to get through.
   5C. Place downspout in rain barrel.

**MATERIALS**
- Plastic food grade barrel
- Rain barrel spigot kit (if not already supplied with your rain barrel)
- Silicone caulk
- Hose
- Downspout elbow adapter OR flexible downspout extension
- Gravel (optional, but recommended)
- Concrete blocks

**TOOLS**
- Drill
- Drill bits
  - 1 sized for spigot
  - 1 sized for garden hose
- Caulkgun
- Hacksaw or snips

**USE THE WATER YOU COLLECT!**
Use as mop water.
Water gardens, lawns, and indoor plants.
Wash your car.
Clean driveways, patios, and other outdoors areas.