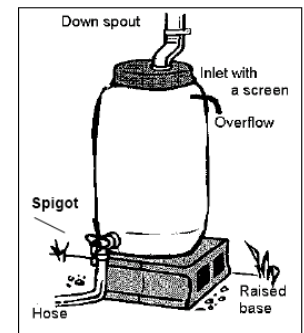




Rain Barrel Installation and Maintenance Checklist

- The Overflow from the barrel** must be directed into a landscaped bed or lawn area **at least 4 feet away** from the foundation. Don't allow the water to overflow and saturate the ground around your home's foundation; use an adjustable diverter or an overflow pipe
- The barrel must be placed on a **flat and level surface**. 50 gallons of water weighs 400 pounds and you don't want it to tip over.

- Consider raising your barrel about two feet off the ground** in order to enhance gravity flow into a hose and get good drainage. Cinder or landscaping blocks provide a good base. Remember, the higher you place your barrel, the more water pressure you get from your hose but use caution balancing height with stability. **Barrels larger than 60 gallons should not be raised on any small pedestal.**



- Place your rain barrel on a surface that is pervious, like mulch or gravel. Otherwise, water could pool on paved areas and become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- Clean gutters** on a regular basis.
- Empty your rain barrel** ideally within a week after a rain event to optimize your use for the next rain event.

Winter Care

- Empty buckets, watering cans, rain barrels.** Emptying reduces freezing damage, prevents the accumulation of debris and allows for any needed repairs or refurbishing.
- Disconnect downspouts and redirect.** Place barrel on its side and flush debris out with garden hose.
- Put away hoses and sprinklers.** Drain completely. Check for cracks or other damage. Store in a location where they will not be subject to physical damage. Some barrels can withstand winter weather as long as they are drained.

Caution

- Never allow children to play or climb on rain barrels!
- Rain Barrels are not to be used for pet or human drinking water.
- Do not use if your house has asbestos roofing shingles. If you are concerned about water quality for use in a pond or edible garden, release “first flush” of water from bottom of barrel into lawn/garden area. You can then use the remainder of water as you wish.