

Catch the Rain!

Your Guide to Rain Barrel Use

Instructions:

Choose a location.

On level ground under a downspout or in your yard if watering far from the house.

Rinse your rain barrel.

Using a warm soap and water solution and a cloth, clean the inside of your barrel then rinse well with a hose. This will get rid of any chemicals or debris in the barrel.

Screw on the lid.

Place the lid on the top of the rain barrel and using a screwdriver and the lid screws, attach the lid. This will prevent animals from falling into the barrel.

Cut your downspout.

After you have your rain barrel in place, measure how much of your downspout you need to cut off so that the end of it just touches the top of the rain barrel screen. Mark where you need to cut the downspout with a marker or pen. Move the rain barrel out of the way then using tin cutters or a small hacksaw, cut the downspout where your mark is. Once cut, direct your downspout to the top of the rain barrel.

Attach the spigot.

Screw in the hose spigot making sure the threading is going in straight, as this will help prevent leaking.

Attach the overflow hose.

Stretch the rubber overflow hose over the overflow hole on the side of the rain barrel and point the hose away from the rain barrel. This will direct excess water away from the barrel rather than pooling around it.

You will need:

- Rain barrel kit (includes barrel, lid, screws for the lid, spigot and overflow hose)
- Fine-toothed hacksaw blade (24 or 32 inch) or a pair of tin snips
- Black marker or pen
- Screwdriver



Benefits of Rain Barrels

- Prevent excess inflow and infiltration into underground sanitary sewer pipes meaning less money is spent on water treatment.
- Prevent lawn and basement flooding by containing water that would otherwise pool on lawns or run into basements.
- Allow you to save money by using less tap water and energy.
- Prevent storm water runoff which can carry pollutants from lawns and roads into Lake Simcoe.

For More Information:

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