

RAIN BARRELS

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What is a Rain Barrel?

A rain barrel is a storage container used to reuse stormwater. When stored correctly, the stormwater can then be re-used to water rain gardens or plants, wash cars, or be used in times of emergency. Depending on the roof size a rain barrel can save around 1,300 gallons of water during the summer months every year.

Benefits to installing a rain barrel system at your school include an aesthetic as well as a constructive way to conserve water; helps to save public water supply energy; can be paired with rain gardens; is good for surrounding ecosystems; teaches environmental sustainability; and helps reduce the number of pollutants that go into public waterways.

How to Install a Rain Barrel

1. Choose your barrel and your location. The barrel can be any size as long as it is cleared for storing water for a long time. Choose a location that is near a downspout or has open direct access to stormwater.
2. Assemble the barrel and prepare the area. If the barrel has a spigot or attachable filters that keep mosquitos from breeding inside, assemble now. The barrel must be on a flat or level surface. To level the area, you can use gravel, sand, or boards to elevate and balance the barrel.

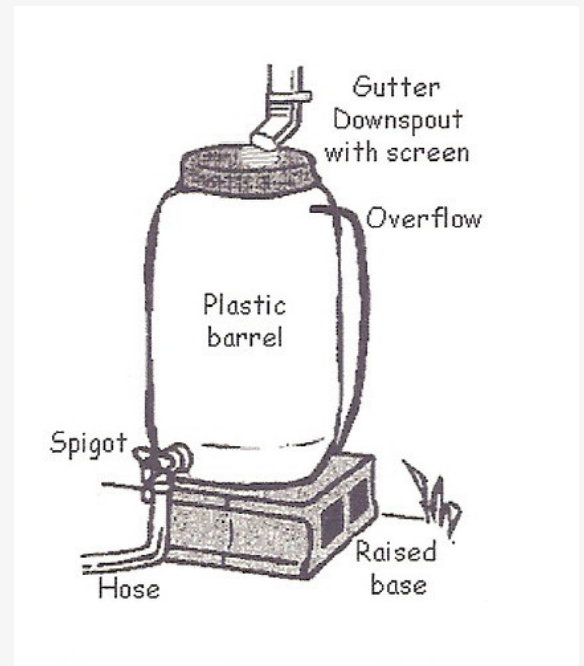


When elevating a barrel take note that it will be heavier when full of water. Make sure the stand can handle the weight

3. Once the ground is level place the barrel under a downspout and aligns the barrel with the downspout. If your downspout goes past your barrel, you will have to cut it down to direct the water's flow.

4. To cut your downspout you will need to make a mark on the downspout so that it is above the barrel. Cut the downspout at the marked spot using a hacksaw. To secure the downspout into the barrel, you can attach an elbow section.

5. Using an overflow spigot or hose, send the overflow water away from the building. The overflow water can be used to water rain gardens, washcars, or can go directly to a city drain.



Tax Credit Benefits

An Education Credit is available to public and private elementary, middle school, and high school property owners recognized by the State of Indiana that provide to their students a regular and continuing program of education concentrating on the stewardship of our water resources and minimization of demand on the regional Storm Water system. This education must be provided annually to a minimum of one grade level of students which approximates 25% of students within the school applying for a credit, and must be appropriate for the grade level receiving the curriculum. Implementation of a rain garden or rain barrel system, along with an educational component implementation, will make a school eligible for this credit. Please refer to Indianapolis Stormwater Credit Manual at <https://citybase-cms-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/515488394718481f85d7c98d231aa959.pdf> for more information.

References and Other Resources

Houselogic

Water Savings Barrel | Rain Barrel Water Conservation (houselogic.com)

SFGate

How Much Water Does One Rain Barrel Save? (sfgate.com)

Lowe's

How to Buy, Install and Use a Rain Barrel | Lowe's (lowes.com)

Prevent Mosquito Breeding

3 Ways to Prevent Mosquito Breeding in Rain Barrels - wikiHow