

How Does a Rain Barrel Work?

Once placed beneath your downspout, a rain barrel system will collect and store rainwater that falls onto the rooftops of homes and smaller buildings.

This rainwater is soft and untreated unlike the potable or drinking water that flows from the tap. You can use the rainwater at your convenience for outdoor watering activities such as lawn care, gardening, pool top off, and car washing.

It can also help divert rain from storm drains, minimizing runoff, sewer overflows and flooding. By harvesting rain water at your home or business you can **help save money, energy, and the environment.**



Rain Barrel Maintenance

As debris from surrounding foliage can collect on the barrel lid and cause water spillage, the mesh insert in the centre of the lid should be cleaned regularly. This can be done by carefully removing the mesh with a flat-head screwdriver and rinsing thoroughly.

The rain barrel should be drained before temperatures dip below zero to avoid freezing of contained water and cracking of the plastic. Over the winter the barrel should be moved away from the downspout, turned over, and stored in a covered location.

Where to Buy a Rain Barrel

As of May 2015, Parkland County; the City of Spruce Grove; and the Town of Stony Plain have partnered with RONA to hold an annual spring sale where rain barrels will be available at a discounted price.

Contact Us

Feel free to contact us with questions, concerns and/or comments.

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Use a Rain Barrel Save Water, Save Money!



Why Use a Rain Barrel?

The benefits of rain barrels include:

- Saves money by reducing household demand for municipal water.
- Helps conserve our limited fresh water supply, saving homeowners about 1300 gallons of water/summer.
- Many outdoor water uses such as gardening, lawn care, and vehicle washing can utilize rainwater collected by a rain barrel.
- Reduces energy needed to use, transport, and treat drinking water and the associated greenhouse gas emissions; therefore helping to reduce climate change.
- Rain water can help stimulate plant growth as it is soft, non-chlorinated and has a natural pH.



What a Rain Barrel Looks Like

Rain barrels sold at RONA can hold up to 55 US gallons or just over 200 litres of water. They weigh around 17 pounds and stand at 36 inches in height.

The barrels are white or black in color and contain no significant logo on any side. Their square shape facilitates easy installation against walls and in corners; and they have rounded edges for easy cleaning, enhanced strength, and injury protection.

The barrels are manufactured of 50% recycled high-density polyethylene resin plastic which **does not contain BPA** or other toxic chemicals that can leach out of the plastic and into water supplies.

Included Features

Each barrel comes with a spigot or faucet that can be mounted near the bottom for easy pouring into watering cans and other containers.

They also come with a slightly inverted lid that contains a stainless steel mesh centre to keep out pests, debris and other wildlife while allowing water to flow easily into the barrel.

Finally, the rain barrels are equipped with a protected overflow spout and a small amount of tubing that can be attached and positioned to divert overflow water where necessary.

Setting up your Rain Barrel

Rain barrels can be set up outside of buildings in two easy steps!

1. Picking a suitable location:

Locations should be wherever is most convenient, while still avoiding gas or water meters.

Barrels should be located under a downspout that connects to the rooftop.

Ensure positive drainage is at least five feet from building foundations.

If needed, place a smooth level surface (bricks or cement block) under the downspout to raise the barrel.

2. Connecting your downspout:

Remove existing downspout clamp and elbow.

Cut or extend downspout so that elbow will sit right over the lid mesh when reinserted.

Reinsert elbow.

If positive drainage is an issue, attach overflow tubing or hose and direct overflow water away from foundations.

Downspout diverters may also be installed to divert water from the downspout into the rain barrel if the desired location is at a distance from the downspout or to prevent overflow.

Barrels may also be connected in tandem to increase maximum rain water collection capacity.