

How to Harvest Rainwater

Rainwater harvesting is an easy way to be waste zero and practice sustainable landscaping. A simple way to conserve rain water is to install a rain barrel. Rain barrels attach to your rainstorm gutters and retain storm water for reuse. Check out our step-by-step guide on installing a rain barrel.

Step 1: Choose Your Rain Barrel

Rain barrels can be purchased at several home improvement stores or you can repurpose an old trash can. When choosing a rain barrel, make sure you can easily remove the lid for cleaning and easily lift the barrel. The size of the barrel will need to be appropriate for your outdoor space, next to a downspout, and close to your garden.



Step 2: Connect Your Barrel to the Downspout

Once you have located the downspout that your barrel will be connected to, you will need to disconnect the lower end of the downspout that allows water to flow onto the curb.

Next, you will need to place a downspout elbow onto the downspout. Attaching a downspout elbow will allow you to direct the rainwater directly into the rain barrel. Secure the downspout elbow with screws.

Finally, place the rain barrel underneath the downspout elbow.



Controlling Overflow

To control rain barrel overflow, you can attach a spigot and connect it to water hose. This will allow you to redirect overflow to specific areas in your garden.

An additional way to control overflow is by attaching a diverter to the top of your barrel and connecting it to a rain drain tube. Direct the rain drain tube towards a storm drain or curb drain.

Tips

Add a mosquito-proof screen under the barrel lid to prevent mosquitos and other insects from accumulating.

Take it a step further and start composting by following our easy step-by-step guide!