

# Reduce Your ‘Rainwater Footprint’ With A Rain Barrel

Rain barrels are a great way to capture rain water for use on your vegetable and flower gardens, trees, and turf grass. They also benefit our nearby lakes and streams by reducing the amount of rainwater runoff that is being sent to these waterways via pipes.

## *Rain Barrel Features to Consider:*

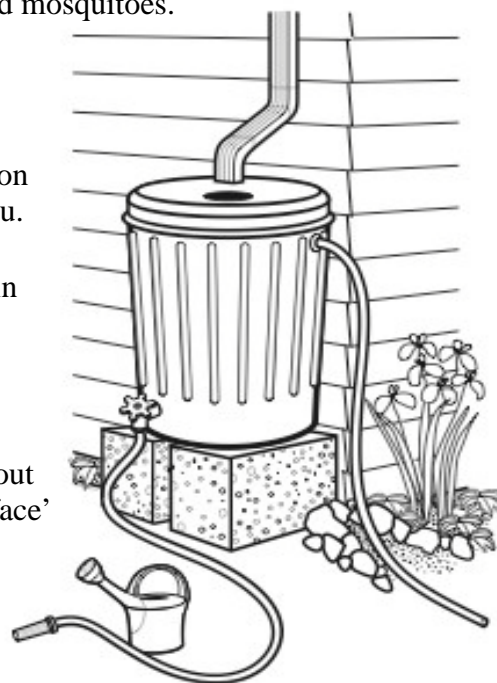
- Removable top – useful for dipping water out with a watering can.
- Overflow portal – for excess rainwater overflow
- Stand or blocks for raising the barrel – Elevation is essential for maximum water pressure (1-2 feet is recommended).
- Screen over the barrel opening – to trap leaves/debris and mosquitoes.

## *Rain Barrel Selection & Placement:*

- Rain barrels should be placed near your downspouts.
- Rain barrels range in cost from \$70 to \$250, depending on the style and shaping. Choose a style that is right for you.
- Manufactured rain barrels come in different sizes (30 gallon, 60 gallon, or 80 gallon). Consider how much rain you will need to capture.

## *Rain Barrel Installation:*

- Use flexible downspout material to connect the downspout to the barrel. Downspouts that ‘hang free of a solid surface’ are vulnerable to wind damage.
- An extension hose attached to the overflow port may be useful.



## *Sources of Rain Barrels:*

Great Lakes Rain Barrel – 248-477-3242 <http://www.greatlakesrainbarrel.com/>

Rain Barrel USA – 704-843-1581 <http://www.rainbarrelusa.com>

Spruce Creek Rain Saver – 800-940-0187 <http://sprucecreekrainsaver.com/contact.html>

Gardener’s Supply Company – 888-833-1412 [www.gardeners.com/](http://www.gardeners.com/)

Aqua Barrel: 301-253-8855 [www.aquabarrel.com/](http://www.aquabarrel.com/)

Clean Air Gardening: [www.cleanairgardening.com/rainbarrels.html](http://www.cleanairgardening.com/rainbarrels.html)

Rain Barrel Source. Com: 866-912-9719 [www.rainbarrelsource.com](http://www.rainbarrelsource.com)

Home Depot: 800-430-3376 [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com)