

What is a rain barrel?

A rain barrel provides a reservoir for water from roof top run off.

Water collected in the barrels can be used for non-potable uses such as watering a garden or washing your car.

When installed on a downspout that would otherwise send rainwater to the street, a properly maintained rain barrel can remove stormwater from the sewer and help reduce sewer overflows.



Where can I get a Rain Barrel?

- Rain Barrels can be purchased from most garden centers or large hardware stores, as well as online.
- They range in price from \$50 to \$200 depending on features

ALBANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT Rain Barrel Program

Save Some Rain For A Sunny Day



The Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering rain barrels for **ONLY \$80.00**. Please note that you **do not** have to be an Albany County resident to purchase.

For More Information Please Contact the SWCD
24 Martin Road, Voorheesville Room #2
(518) 765-7923 or ACSWCD@gmail.com
Or visit: www.albanycounty.com/swcd

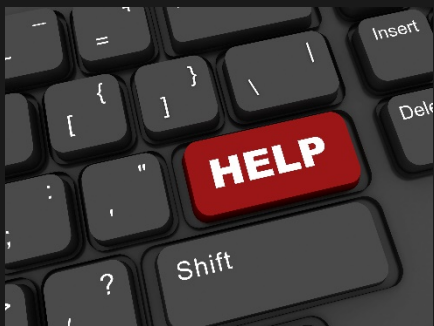
Conservation District Rain Barrel Features

- Holds 50 gallons of rain water
- Food-quality high density Poly Ethylene barrel
- Holes in lid for water to enter from downspout
- Screen keeps bugs and debris out of your water
- Garden hose size spigot attachment at bottom of barrel
- Multiple outlets to allow "daisy chain" of barrels for more storage
- Measures 23L x 23W x 34H inches; weighs 15 lbs.



Setting up a rain barrel

Tips and Best Practices



You can check out http://www.phillywatersheds.org/sites/default/files/RB_Installation.pdf for printable, detailed instructions

First steps



1. Select a site and measure
2. Construct a simple base
3. Detach part of your downspout* or insert a downspout diverter, directing water to the barrel
4. Attach a hose

*Make sure to reconnect the downspout when the barrel is not in use!

Site Selection

An ideal site will be a gutter that drains to a driveway or impervious surface. A barrel installed here can help abate the discharge of stormwater to the street and combined sewer system.



Construct a base

It's optional, but adding a 1' – 2' base under the barrel will help provide stability, as well as access to the lowest spigot. The height also allows a little help from gravity to provide water pressure.



Detach the downspout

1. Measure for the height of the barrel before cutting! The top of the barrel should be no further than 6" to the end of the downspout.
2. You may want to add a diverter (<\$5) to direct flow into the barrel
3. Make sure to save the cut piece of downspout to reattach in winter.



Detach the downspouts

Alternatively, you may wish to purchase a diverter, such as the “Save The Rain” metal diverter (most major retailers ~\$30).



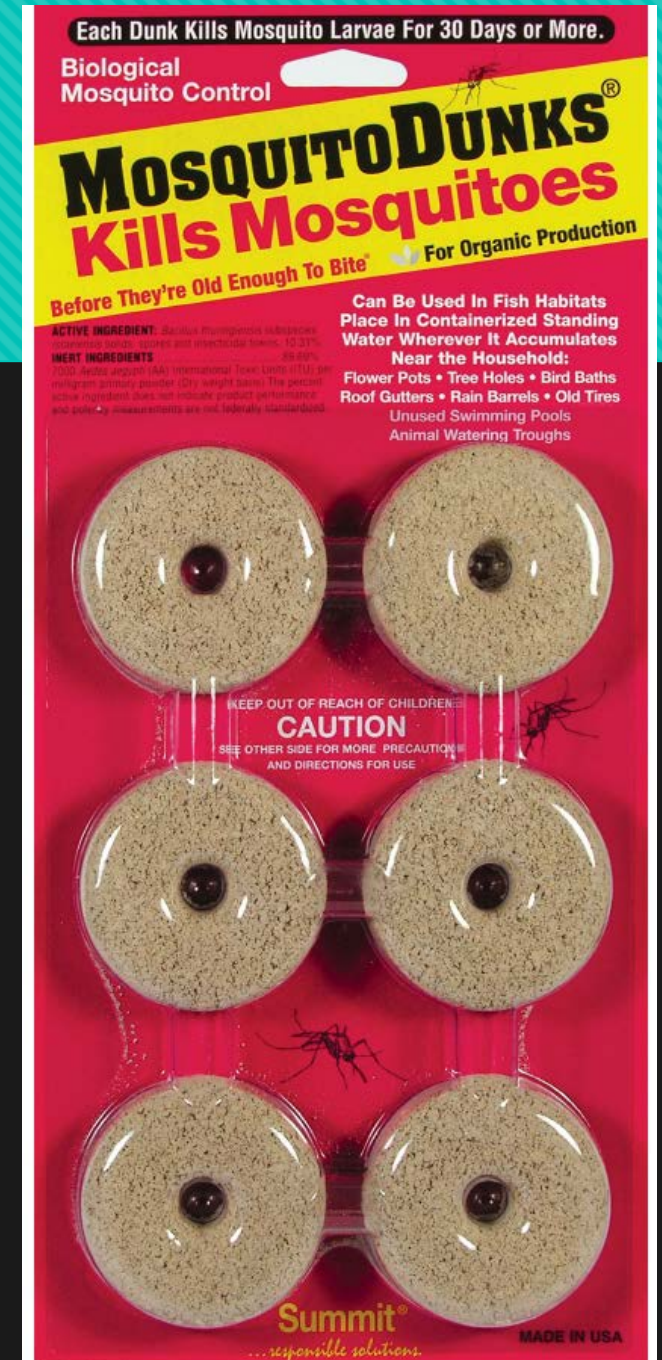
Attach a hose and an overflow

1. Attach the valve, included, and then attach a hose to the lowest spigot.
2. Attach a second hose to divert any overflow. The overflow may be reconnected to the downspout if you're using a diverter.
3. Direct overflow away from foundation, impervious surface and property line



Maintenance Tips

- **Use it!** The barrel doesn't do any good unless you use the water that gets collected.
- Do not let water freeze in the barrel – disconnect and store
- Consider putting a product such as Mosquito Dunks in the barrel for pest control. (~\$9 for 6, one will last ½ a season)
- Ensure the top is free from debris and clogs.



Do's and Don'ts



DO

- Measure twice cut once
- Install the overflow directing water away from structures, property lines and impervious surfaces
- Place the barrel on a stable, firm surface
- Keep the top of the barrel clean from debris
- Use the water for irrigation

DON'T

- Use rainwater for drinking water
- Allow water to freeze in the barrel
- Forget to reconnect the downspout when the barrel is not in use
- Direct overflow near foundations or impervious areas

Contact us!

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