

What is a Rain Barrel?

A Rain Barrel is a container used to collect and store rainwater that would otherwise be lost to run off and likely diverted to a storm drain.

Benefits:

- Reduce Lawn Ponding and Flooding
- Reduce Water Waste
- Save Money
- Keep our streams, rivers, and lakes Healthy



Did you Know?

Quarter inch of rain from an average roof will easily fill a rain barrel

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will my rain barrel attract mosquitoes?

No! This type of rain barrel is a closed water system, there is no standing water where mosquitoes can breed.

2. Can I add a second (or third...) barrel to the same system? YES! Make a hole in each barrel, thread each with pipe tap, wrap threaded hose ends with Teflon tape and connect the barrels with the small hose.

3. Can I paint my barrel? YES! There are several paint types that adhere to plastic.

4. Can I drink the water from my rain barrel? NO! Water that enters your rain barrel runs off your roof and downspout, making it unsafe for humans and animals to drink.



1495 W. Longview
Avenue Suite 205B
Mansfield, Ohio
44906

419-747-8686

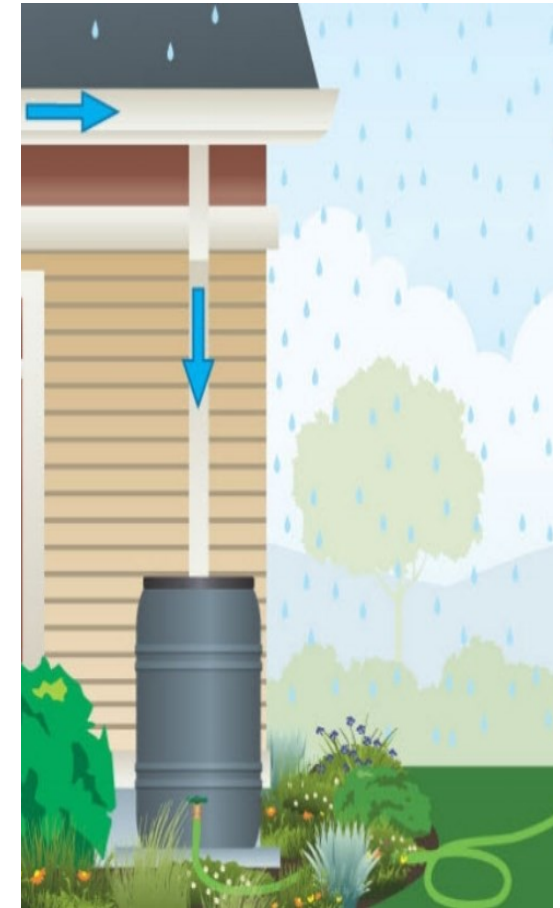
419-747-8077 Direct

Website:

www.richlandswcd.net



Rain Barrel





Why Use a Rain Barrel?

- **Protect our Water Shed:** Fertilizers and pesticides are the primary source of water pollution. By collecting rainwater, you prevent stormwater runoff from picking up and carrying these harmful pollutants into our local waterways.
- **Water Conservation:** Approximately 50% of total household water is used for lawn and garden watering. By using rain barrels, you lessen the amount of water flowing into our stormwater systems. This is also a free source of water.
- **Natural Gardening:** Using rain water for your garden is healthy and beneficial. Plants prefer rainwater because it is naturally soft– free of chlorine and other chemicals that is in tap water. Warm water is also less shocking to plants than cold water.

Installation Tips:

Depending on the hole for the spigot at the bottom of the barrel :

- 12 inches from the bottom of the barrel will not need to be raised
- 2 inches from the bottom of the barrel needs to be raised. By raising the barrel off the ground you added pressure to the water for easier watering. You can use:

- Cinder blocks
- Wood pallets
- Bricks



Diverter kit: each kit is unique with installation. To install please follow specific directions on the box for the diverter kit

Maintenance

- Clean gutters regularly
- Check down spouts to make sure they are not clogged
- Make sure diverter valve is working properly
- Check rain barrel for any cracks, debris on bottom, or algae growth

Cleaning:

- Drain the rain barrel and disconnect white hose from the diverter valve
- Use plug provided and place on diverter valve
- Unscrew white caps on top of barrel
- Turn on side, spray and rinse the interior
- Can use a solution of vinegar or bleach and water mixture for more in depth cleaning



Winterize:

- Follow steps above for cleaning
- Turn upside down
- Store it away:
 - Inside: garage, basement , or shed
 - Outside: place heavy object on top to stay in place