

## WHY USE A RAIN BARREL?

- ✓ Save money by saving rainwater to irrigate your landscaping
- ✓ Rain is naturally soft, without minerals and chemicals
- ✓ Reduces runoff from your roof and yard, and this reduces water pollution
- ✓ Reduces peak water demands during the summer
- ✓ When properly installed, rain barrels reduce the amount of water that collects near your house foundation



### MOSQUITOES AND RAIN BARRELS



Prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs in your rain barrel with these tips:

- Install window screen tightly over any openings
- Use a larvicide product that contains a natural bacteria such as “Mosquito Dunks”

More Information

### HENDRICKS COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR WATER QUALITY

[www.hendricks.in.us/cleanwater](http://www.hendricks.in.us/cleanwater)



## HARVEST THE RAIN WITH A RAIN BARREL

Save money by using collected rainwater for your flowers and garden!

**Hendricks County  
Partnership for Water Quality**







## BUILDING YOUR RAIN BARREL

### Supplies you'll need:

- ✓ Plastic barrel, food grade (do not use a barrel that held harsh chemicals)
- ✓ Spigot, downspout diverter, threaded seal, or DIY Rain Barrel kit from EarthMinded\*
- ✓ Base to elevate your barrel - see next panel

### Tools you'll need:

- ✓ Drill
- ✓ Tape measure
- ✓ Screwdriver
- ✓ Marker
- ✓ Gloves
- ✓ Safety glasses

For YouTube video instructions, go to:



### Things to keep in mind:

- Do not drink water from the rain barrel.
- Avoid collecting rainwater from roofs that have been treated with chemicals such as moss killers, zinc strips, etc.
- If your gutters collect a lot of debris, consider installing a downspout debris filter or gutter guards.

## INSTALLING YOUR RAIN BARREL



### LOCATION

Install your rain barrel close to where you plan on using the water.

### BASE



To get better water pressure and to be able to fit a watering can or bucket under the spigot, build a sturdy, level base at least 1 ft off the ground. Bases can be built with cinder blocks, bricks, stones, wood, or cement.

SAFETY FIRST: A full barrel can weigh 240-450 pounds, depending on the size of the barrel. Make sure the base is very sturdy and level.



### DECORATING YOUR RAIN BARREL

Scuff the surface with sandpaper so that the paint sticks better. Prime, and then paint with exterior house paint or an all-purpose spray paint. Stencils can be used to create designs. Paint or spray with 1-2 coats of polyurethane. Stickers and colored tape are also decorating options.

Tip: white barrels should be painted to prevent algae growth.

## CARING FOR YOUR RAIN BARREL



Proper maintenance will ensure a long lifetime of your rain barrel.

It is recommended that you rinse your barrel before use. Rinse with 1/8 cup of bleach and 5 gallons of water.

### MAINTENANCE



Check to make sure all openings are free of debris and are flowing freely.

During severe rain storms, check to make sure the overflow is working properly.



### WINTER

To prevent freezing and cracking your barrel, disconnect the downspout diverter and place the cap in the downspout. Drain your barrel and turn it upside down to prevent water from collecting in the barrel or consider storing your barrel inside for the winter.

\*These directions were written for use with the kit from EarthMinded for a rain barrel workshop. This is for educational purposes and does not imply endorsement by Hendricks County Partnership for Water Quality, nor discrimination against similar brands, products or services not mentioned.