

## Rain Barrels Fill A Variety Of Needs

Rain barrels are coming back into popularity. With water shortages becoming more commonplace over large areas of the country and the importance of water conservation in general being raised in social consciousness, it seems a natural solution.

The drivers that make people choose to collect rainwater vary. Use of rainwater is a legal way to save lawns and gardens when watering becomes limited or banned. Others turn to rain barrels to keep their water bills down. Other than drinking and cooking, water from rain barrels or cisterns can fill a multitude of needs.

Many people concerned with conservation and maintaining green lifestyles use rain barrels with water conservation as their primary goal.

Setting up rain barrels can be as simple or elaborate as your pocketbook allows. The basic requirements include the following items: 1. Rain gutter and downspout 2. Barrel or other large container 3. Screen to block leaves and twigs, etc. 4. Tight fitting lid 5. Spout or outlet hose

Your existing rain gutters will take care of the first item needed. You will have to install them if you do not have them. The final requirement, the downspout, is needed to direct the rainwater into the barrel.

Rain barrels can be wood or plastic, new or recycled. If a recycled barrel is used, make sure you know what the barrel has stored in the past to avoid tainting the water with harmful residues. Childproof your rain barrels with tight fitting lids. Rain barrels need a distribution outlet in the form of a spout with a valve or a piece of hose. A benefit of harvesting rainwater is that it has no chlorine or other chemicals which makes it healthy for plants. Even when watering bans are not in place, recycling rainwater for the sprinkler, etc. insures more water for consumption. Also, when rain fills the drains and gutters, it mixes with wastewater and runs off into rivers and streams. By harvesting rainwater to water gardens and lawns, it allows the water to drain through the rock beds and naturally reenter the water system in a purified state.

Use of rain barrels is good for individuals because it reduces water costs and keeps gardens and lawns healthy. Additionally, whether your primary goal or a byproduct, you will contribute to water conservation and environmental safety. Related information [Cheap rain barrel ...](#) [Rain collection barrels ...](#)

## About the Author

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