

How to make your own Rain Barrel:

- First create an opening for water collection. Cover the hole with a screen or filter to catch organic matter.
- Next construct an overflow valve on the side of the barrel near the top. An overflow valve is critical to redirect water during periods of heavy rain and when the barrel is full.
- Attach a spigot a few inches from the bottom of your rain barrel that can be used to drain the barrel. Seal all fittings and spigots with caulk to minimize water leakage.
- Consider painting or otherwise decorating your rain barrel to make it a distinct and attractive part of your yard.



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Rain Barrels

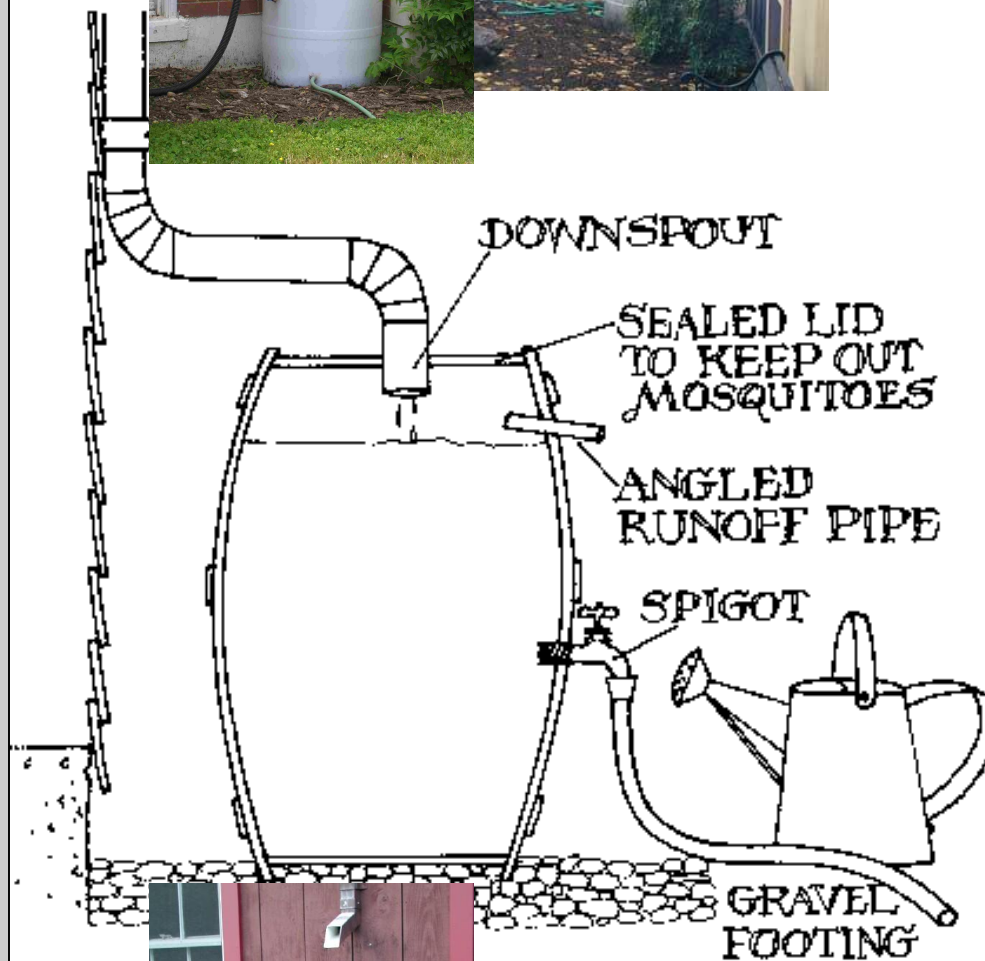


Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:
Storm Water Management



Benefits of Rain Barrels:

- Rain Barrels are a great way to keep the rain water that enters your property within your property.
- Rain Barrels slow rain runoff so it can drain naturally into the ground.
- Collected rainwater is better for plants because it is naturally soft water and devoid of mineral, chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals.
- Rain barrels provide water during the dry periods
- Lowers your water costs!



Care of a Rain Barrel:

- Do not allow water to stand in barrel for more than five to seven days.
- A fine mesh screen or filter fitted to the lid of your rain barrel will prevent adult mosquitoes from gaining access to the barrel and laying eggs.
- If algae become a problem, empty the barrel and then wash the barrel with a dilute bleach solution (3/4 cup per gallon of water). Rinse the barrel well after bleaching.
- Regularly clean the screen to ensure that no organic matter blocks drainage.