



Rain Barrel Installation Instructions

We recommend that if you are not capable of installing this barrel correctly that you seek professional assistance.

It is important that the rain barrel be installed so that there is absolutely NO chance that it can fall over when it is full of water. A full barrel will weigh approximately 400 pounds.

To provide easier access to the spigot on the bottom of the barrel some people like to elevate the barrel by setting it on blocks. Use only concrete blocks in good condition and make sure that they are level.

The barrel needs to be installed adjacent to or in front of a downspout.

There are many ways to get the water from the downspout into the barrel. Some of them include:

Cut the downspout off about 18 inches above the rain barrel. Install a **flexible downspout extension** (\$8-\$13) onto the end of the remaining downspout and insert it into the barrel.

Cut off the downspout and install two **90 degree elbows** (\$ 4each) so that the water is directed in to the barrel

Cut off the downspout about 8" above the barrel and install a **flexible downspout elbow** (\$3-\$5) so that the water is directed into the barrel.

You may also use PVC pipes and other methods. Before winter most users simply open the bottom valve and remove the garden hose if installed. You don't want water to remain or collect in the barrel during winter. The ice will expand and crack the barrel. A few users remove the barrel in the winter

and replace the downspout that was cut off by using a **downspout coupler** (\$5).

After you have gotten comfortable using your single barrel consider adding another one or more. Some folks have hooked up over 40 barrels together into one system. To connect barrels together another intake needs to be added opposite the overflow valve. The barrels then can be connected using more sump pump hose. The new inlet pipe can be a straight pipe; it should not be a right angle pipe like the overflow pipe. When constructed in this fashion you will need to move your watering hose from barrel to barrel as they are emptied, unless you have added pipes between the bottoms of the barrels.

There are other ways to construct rain barrels, to "camouflage" them or to decorate them. Google "Rain barrels" and you will find lots of options.

After your barrel is installed please e-mail Courtney.Kastning@nd.nacdn.net to let us know it is being used. We like to put a pin on a map indicating all of the locations where this great "new" technology is installed, helping save energy and reducing water pollution. We also appreciate e-mailed pictures of your installed rain barrel(s).

For more information:

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