

RAIN BARREL USES & BENEFITS

Homeowners use more tap water for outdoor use in Spring and Summer that could be obtained from a barrel of rain water instead.

COLLECTED RAIN WATER - POSSIBLE USES

So now that you have all this collected water, what can you do with it?

- 💧 **Water your Garden and Indoor Plants**
 - ◆ Water your indoor plants and outdoor vegetable or flower garden using your barrel water. Plants and vegetables benefit from the use of water not treated with chlorine or fluoride.
- 💧 **Kids Water Fun**
 - ◆ Use barrel water to fill water toys.
- 💧 **Dog, Vehicle and Window Washing**

COLLECTED RAIN WATER BENEFITS

- 💧 **Water Conservation**
 - ◆ Using a rain barrel can save a significant amount of money. For each inch of rain that falls on 500 square feet of a roof, you could be collecting 300 gallons of water.
- 💧 **Sewer System**
 - ◆ Rainwater that flows into barrels reduces the chances of flooding in basements or washing out lawns or driveways. Collecting rainwater reduces pressure in municipal sewers during peak runoff. By keeping water out of the streams in the area, there is less likelihood of flooding and washing of undesirable materials on local waterways.
- 💧 **Soft Water**
 - ◆ Rainwater is naturally very soft, allowing you to create more soap suds and less waste when washing windows, cars or pets.

**EVERY DROP MATTERS.
EVERY CUSTOMER COUNTS!**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Monroe County Water Authority is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation that reliably provides quality, affordable water that fosters economic vitality and enhanced quality of life for Monroe County and area communities who request service.

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Monroe County Water Authority

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ALL ABOUT...

How to Build a Rain Barrel



**Rain barrels are a great way to save water and money—and making a DIY rain barrel helps you save even more.
Make your own today!**



BUILDING YOUR DIY RAIN BARREL IS EASY USING THESE STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Materials you will need

- ◆ (1) Large Plastic Trash Container (w/ Lid) or decorative plastic Barrel (w/ Lid)
- ◆ (1) Tube of Waterproof Sealant
- ◆ (2) Rubber Washers
- ◆ (2) Metal Washers
- ◆ (1) Hose Clamp
- ◆ (1) Spigot
- ◆ A Power Drill
- ◆ Landscaping Fabric



Step 2: Drill a Hole

- ◆ Drill a hole near the bottom of your barrel.



This is where you'll insert your spigot. Use a drill bit that's a little smaller than or the same size as the spigot. **NOTE:** *Don't create a hole that's too low, you'll want to leave enough space underneath the hole/spigot to fill your watering can.*

Step 3: Insert the Spigot

- ◆ Place a metal washer onto the threaded end of the spigot, then put a snugly fitting rubber washer over the threads to help hold the washer in place and prevent leakage.



Step 4: Seal it Up

- ◆ Apply a bead of waterproof sealant over your rubber washer and insert the spigot into the hole. Wait for the sealant to dry, then run a rubber washer, followed by a metal washer onto the threads of the spigot inside the barrel. Secure the spigot in place inside your barrel with the hose clamp. This is important because it will keep your spigot from coming loose from your barrel. **NOTE:** *You can also use watertight Teflon Tape to seal the spigot hole.*



Step 5: Make Water Entry & Exit Holes

- ◆ Carefully cut a hole in the lid of your rain barrel. This hole should sit under your home's downspout so the water runs right into the barrel. Cut the hole so it's large enough to accommodate the water flow from the downspout. You'll also want to drill a hole or two near the very top of your rain barrel. This hole will allow water to overflow.



Step 6: Seal the Top

- ◆ Cut a piece of landscaping fabric to sit over the top, then put the lid over the top of it to secure it. This will create a barrier that prevents mosquitoes and other pests from getting in your rain barrel water.



Step 7: Place your Rain Barrel

- ◆ Now that the hard work is done, all you have to do is get your rain water barrel in place. Position it directly underneath your downspout in a spot that's most convenient for you to use it. Then just wait for it to rain so you can water your garden with the water -- and enjoy your money savings.

