

RAIN BARREL 101

What are rain barrels?

Rain barrels are a great way for homeowners to harvest rainwater. Rainwater harvesting is the process of collecting and storing rainwater for later use.

Why should I have a rain barrel?

Rain barrels can reduce your water bill and protect your home's foundation. The collected rainwater can be used to supplement your irrigation and will reduce the amount of water settling around the foundation of your home.

What can I use the water for?

The rainwater you collect can be used to rinse garden tools, water flower beds, keep compost moist, etc. However, the water should not be used for drinking, cooking, or bathing.

How do rain barrels impact stormwater?

Rain barrels reduce stormwater runoff by capturing it as it leaves your roof. This can reduce the amount of pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals that get washed into our lakes and streams. Reducing stormwater runoff can also reduce the stress on downstream stormwater management and treatment systems.

For local information, contact your city or county stormwater coordinator.
For more information about the stormwater regulatory program, contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) Water Quality Division at (405) 702-8100, or visit the ODEQ website at:
<http://www.deq.state.ok.us/WQDnew/stormwater/>



Only rain down the storm drain!
Call the Stormwater Hotline to report
illicit dumping or illegal dumping at
(580)581-3565

2100 SW 6th Street
Lawton, OK 73501

Phone: 580-581-3478

E-mail: Stormwater@lawtonok.gov

Website: <https://www.lawtonok.gov/departments/public-works/stormwater->



CITY OF LAWTON

Stormwater Management



DIY Rain Barrel

HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN RAIN BARREL

Tools & Materials

Tools:

- *drill with 15/16" bit
- *hole saw, saber saw, keyhole saw, etc.
- *Teflon tape, caulk, PVC cement, etc.
- *hacksaw blade or tin snips

Materials:

- *50-55 gallon barrel (Try to choose a food-grade barrel and avoid barrels that were used to store harsh chemicals. Opaque barrels are often preferred because clear or translucent barrels can encourage algae growth.)
- *3/4" hose spigot
- *screen or wire mesh
- *flexible downspout extender
- *2" PVC pipe, rubber tubing or garden hose with male adapter (optional)

Instructions

Prepare the Barrel

Rinse the interior of your barrel ensuring that any remaining foods, liquids, or other debris are removed.

Install the Spigot

Drill a hole for the spigot threading a few inches from the bottom of the barrel (be sure you leave enough space for any debris to settle

so hoses attached to the spigot will not clog). Install the spigot using PVC cement, Teflon tape, or caulk to form a water-tight seal around the threads. Fill the barrel with water to test the seal before proceeding.

Build a Platform

Rain barrels are often placed on elevated platforms to improve the water pressure of outflow. Platforms can be built using a range of materials including wood and concrete cinder blocks. Since rain barrels are prone to freezing, if not emptied during winter months, which can cause the bottom to round, be sure that the platform is secure enough to keep the barrel from tipping over.

Cut the Inlet

Use a hole saw, saber saw, keyhole saw, etc., to cut a hole in the lid of your rain barrel large enough to snugly connect with your roof's downspout. Cover the inlet with a screen or wire mesh to help prevent debris and insects from entering your rain barrel.

Connect the Downspout

Position your barrel, on its platform, next to your downspout. Use the hack saw or tin snips, shorten the length of your downspout so that you can attach the flexible extender to the end of your downspout and the rain barrel inlet.

Optional Overflow and Additional Barrels

An overflow pipe can direct excess water away from your foundation or into another rain barrel. The overflow pipe can be constructed with 2" PVC pipe, rubber tubing or garden hose connected near the top of your barrel. You may connect multiple rain barrels together using an overflow pipe to maximize your storage capacity. Barrels can be linked at the top of each barrel (each barrel will need an outlet) or at the bottom of each barrel (only one barrel will need an outlet).

