

Rain Barrels

DID YOU KNOW??

▶ One inch of rain falling on a 1,000 square-foot roof has the potential to harvest 600 gallons of rainwater.

▶ Average annual rainfall in San Diego is 9.9 inches per year on the coast and in excess of 40 inches per year in the inland mountains.

When connected to a roof downspout, a rain barrel can capture and store roof runoff for gardening and other non-potable water use. Rain barrels come in a variety of designs and can be purchased or created as a do-it-yourself project. Temporarily storing rainwater in rain barrels reduces stormwater runoff by slowing water and allowing it to infiltrate into the ground. They also conserve water and can cut your water bill. Rain barrels are inexpensive, easy to install, and a great way to protect natural resources.



By using a rain barrel, you ...

Reduce stormwater runoff which carries sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, grease, and trash directly to our local waterways.

Reduce soil erosion and improve the ability of water to infiltrate the ground at a reduced intensity.

Reduce your dependency on municipal water supplies, save energy, and save money!



For more information on how to prevent polluted runoff while conserving water, visit: www.rethinkwateruse.org

Rain Barrels

Key Installation & Maintenance Tips

With proper installation and maintenance, your rain barrel will last many years and provide free clean water for your yard or garden.

Installation:

- Place your rain barrel on a flat and level platform (such as cinder blocks) to make draining the barrel easier. Remember that without a pump, water flows to the spigot by gravity.
- To help limit algae growth, create shade for the barrel by building a cover, wrapping the barrel with mesh and planting a native crawling vine nearby such as black berry or honey suckle, or painting the barrel an opaque color.
- Regularly check the downspout diverter and remove any debris.
- Review your product specifications and installation sheet for further guidance and information.



Maintenance:

- Clean out your rain barrel once a year. Depending on how much direct sun it receives, it may grow some algae and there may be some sediments from your roof that make it into the barrel.
- Make sure the rain barrel remains securely screened /sealed to prevent mosquitoes.
- Review your maintenance agreement form for further information and tips.



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