

RAIN BARRELS

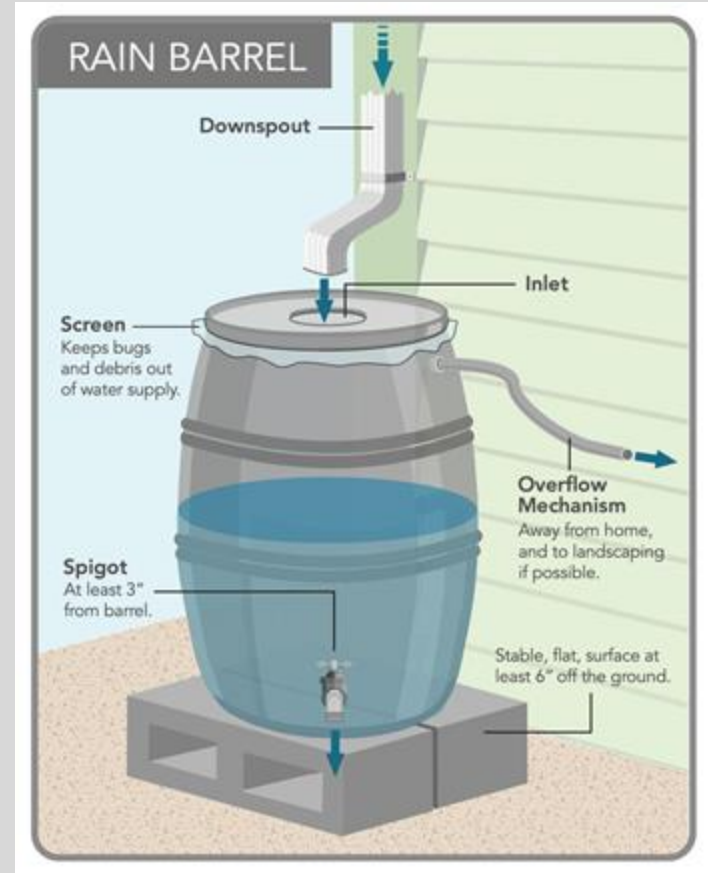


What are Rain Barrels?

- 50-80 gallon plastic, food-grade barrel
- Collects and stores rainwater from your roof and gutters

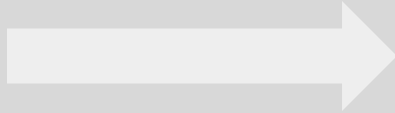
Components:

- The barrel
- Platform
- Screen or hose
- Downspout adapter/diverter
- Overflow Outlet/Drain
- Outgoing spigot

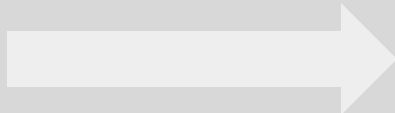


Rain Water Uses

- Garden irrigation
- Car washing
- Window cleaning



- What rain water is **NOT** used for...
 - *Drinking*
 - *Cooking*
 - *Bathing*



Benefits to You and the Environment

- The average household uses 30% of their water outdoors - using free rainwater cuts down on utility bills and municipal water use
- Promotes infiltration of rainwater into the ground, reducing nonpoint source pollution potential



Setting Up Your Rain Barrel

Choose a Location

- Find a downspout that drains to an impervious surface
- Locate the barrel uphill and near a place where you intend to use the water (garden)
- Install on a sturdy, raised surface (wooden platform or cement blocks)

Construct Your Rain Barrel

- Drill holes for intake hose, drain plug, and spigot
- Drill the downspout hole to a few inches above the barrel
- Screw in or fasten all necessary parts



Maintenance & Safety

- Inspect your barrel regularly - Ensure the barrel is secure on the platform (a bungee can keep it from tipping) and the lid is tight
- Drain excess water - Drain overflow water away from house foundation (try to drain to a vegetated area to promote infiltration into the ground)
- Watch for pooling at the barrel top to keep mosquitoes from breeding
- At the end of the summer season, empty your barrel and disconnect it for winter storage



Make it Yours!

- Add your own flair to your rain barrel!
- Use a primer so the paint adheres to it.
- For your paint color, use acrylic or spray paint for plastic surfaces.
- Apply an exterior top coat such as an oil-based polyurethane.



Venango Conservation District

(814) 676-2832

www.venangocd.org