

RAIN BARRELS IN COLORADO

Collecting & Using Rainwater

According to State Law, HB16-1005

How can I collect rainwater?

Rain Barrel

1. Sealable lid
2. Located above ground outside a residential home
3. Used for collecting rain water from a downspout of a rooftop
4. Only allowed **2** rain barrels, collecting a total of **110** gallons



Where can I collect rainwater?

Single-family residence

- Private residence that is a separate building
- Individual residence that is part of a row of residences joined by common sidewalls
- 110 gallons per residence

Multifamily residence with fewer than four units

- Apartments/Condos
- Four units or fewer
- 110 gallons per building

How can I use rainwater?

- Outdoor purposes (i.e. irrigation of lawn and gardens)
- Used on the property it is collected
- Cannot be used for human consumption or indoor household purposes



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Rain Barrel Installation

1. Site Selection



- Location of garden/plants
- Water distribution (bucket/hose)
- Downspout location
- Roof area: 700 sq. ft to generate 110 gallons with the average 0.25 inches of rainfall

2. Components/Equipment

1. BARREL



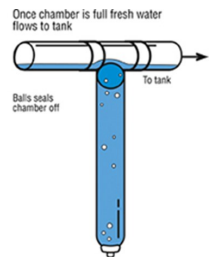
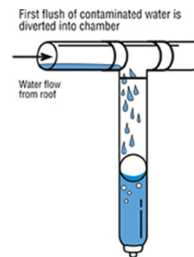
Prefabricated

DIY—Food Container



2. DIVERTER

- Diverters treat the “first flush” of dirty water
- Find DIY videos online



3. INLET

- Single or multiple holes
- Screened
- Downspout within 2-3 inches of inlet



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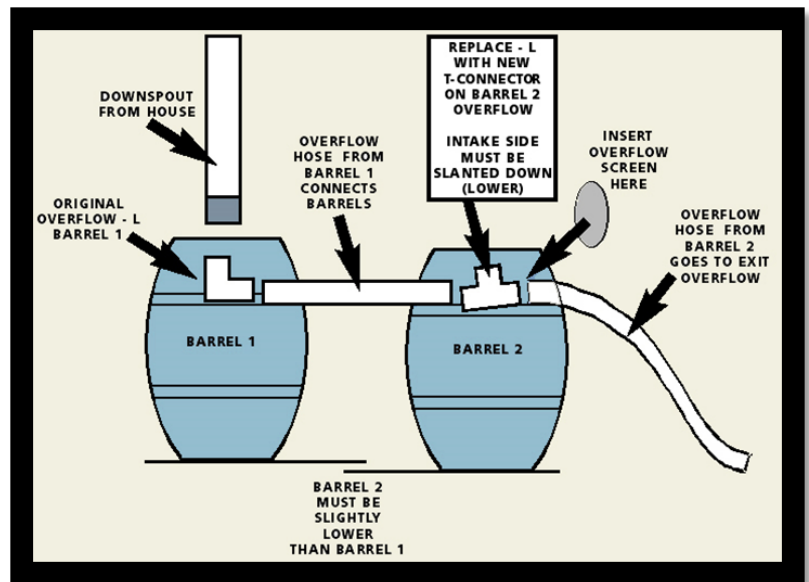
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Rain Barrel Installation

2. Components/Equipment (continued)

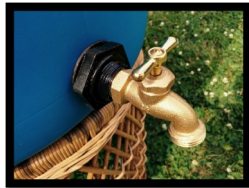
4. OVERFLOW

- Located at the top of the rain barrel
- Directs excess water away from the building
- Can be used to connect two barrels



5. SPIGOT

- Located at the bottom of the rain barrel
- Used to empty rain barrel
- Threaded is preferred
- Kits are available online or at home improvement stores



6. STAND

- Elevate rain barrel
 - Allow for bucket or watering can to be filled
 - Generate faster discharge through a hose
- Examples
 - Concrete blocks
 - Wood
 - Bricks



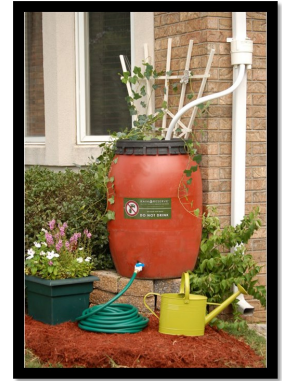
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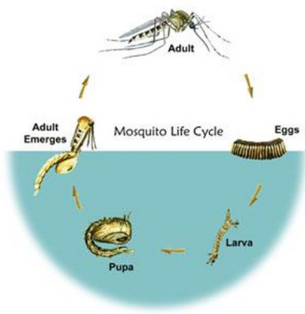
Rain Barrel Operation & Maintenance

Rain Barrel Use

- Best to use within seven days
- Empty, clean and dry once every 30 days
- Disconnect rain barrel if leaving home for extended period of time



Mosquitos



- Mosquitos live in water for three to seven days (typically)
- Mosquito “dunks” available at hardware stores
 - ⇒ Use natural bacteria, safe for plants
- Mosquitos require oxygen
 - ⇒ Several tablespoons of vegetable oil will create a barrier at water surface

Algae Build-up

- Frequent use of water should prevent algae build-up
- If rain barrel is translucent, paint it dark, opaque
- Remove algae with diluted (2%) bleach solution
 - ⇒ Discharge bleach solution to sewer (inside), not onto plants

Winterization

- Use rain barrels March-October
- Frozen water may damage components
- Winterization
 - ⇒ Empty and dry
 - ⇒ Store indoors (preferably)
 - ⇒ Add downspout extension to prevent erosion

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