

Rain Barrels

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System that collects and stores rain water from the rooftop that would otherwise be lost to runoff

Why should I have a Rain Barrel?

- Water lawn and garden plants
 - Free after initial start up costs
 - Naturally soft water without chlorine
 - Source of water where there isn't a faucet
- Decrease flooding
 - 1000 square foot roof + 1 inch of rain = 600 gallons of water
- Slows runoff into storm drainage systems
 - Reduces erosion and pollution
 - Relieves environmental stress

Parts of the Rain Barrel

- Downspout connection
- Barrel
 - Plastic
 - Wood
 - Metal
- Top
 - Closed or screened
- Faucet/spigot
- Overflow/Runoff pipe

Rain Barrel Guidelines

- Be CAREFUL with children and rain barrels
 - 400+ pounds when full
- Keep on flat, level, secure surface
- Elevate on bricks or stand to help with flow
- Keep overflow port positioned away from home
- Winter storage (Empty, store indoors or upside down)
- NOT for drinking, cooking, swimming, bathing
- Use with CAUTION on fruit and vegetable plants
 - Avoid rain barrel water for 6 months with new roof
 - No rain barrel water with very old roofs with LEAD seams
- NOT for refilling the pond or pool
- Prevent algae by preventing sunlight infiltration to water or recycle water
- Use screen, mesh, or nylon hose to screen debris
- Keep system set up as a closed system
- Direct downspout to opening or get flexible downspout extension

Options

- Paint with special paint made to stick to plastic (sand first)
- Link barrels

Barrel Sources:

- Frank at 6201 S. Hydraulic 990-3040 (Soda pop syrup -\$10)
- Ballinger Trash Svc 405 N Baehr St 943-7910 (Food quality barrel -\$15)
- The Yard 725 E Central Ave, Wichita - (316) 265-4672
- Internet (pay attention to shipping charges)
- Local garden centers and home improvement stores, local landscaping/barrel makers

