Create a Stable Base

Create a level surface in the area where you want your rain barrel to go.

Use cinder blocks or bricks on the level surface and then place the empty rain barrel on top to elevate it for easy access with a watering can.
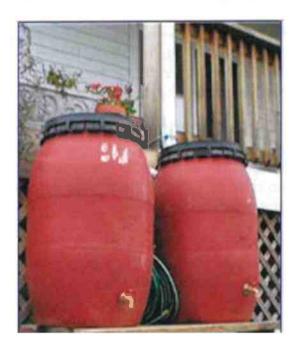
Prepare Your Down-spout

Using a hacksaw, cut the down-spout approximately 12" above the top of the rain barrel (while elevated).

The cut edges of the down-spout may be sharp. You may wish to crimp the cut ends.

Attach the elbow from your down-spout so it is directed into the rain barrel.

A piece of hose may be attached to the overflow and directed into your yard.

Reduce runoff volume
Conserve water
Save money and energy
Provide water during restrictions
Rainwater is FREE!
Protect the Chesapeake Bay and its watersheds.

Other Considerations

Water from rain barrels is NOT for human or animal consumption.

Empty your rain barrel before winter to prevent damage to your barrel.

Rain Barrels can be painted to blend in with your siding or landscape. We suggest using a primer coat prior to the application of paint. There is a special spray paint for plastic that works really well.

Be sure to check with your HOA regarding restrictions.

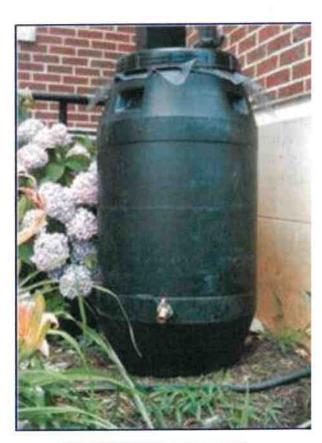**Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District**

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Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District

Rain Barrel Program

LOUDOUN
SWCD
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

We work with the people who work the land.

What are Rain Barrels?

Rain Barrels are an old technology that has come back into style as people focus on conserving our resources and minimizing their impact on the environment.

Rain Barrels capture rain from gutters and downspouts and store it for later use.

Rain Barrels can be as simple as a plastic or metal barrel placed under an existing downspout to elaborate systems designed into new construction with underground cistern storage and pumps to utilize for non- potable indoor uses like toilets.

Environmental Benefits

Capturing storm water from rooftops and trapping it for later use encourages water to infiltrate into the soil rather than to run off quickly.

Even 10 percent imperviousness can alter the natural rainwater runoff pattern and can cause damage to stream channels. Allowing storm water or infiltrate through the soil keeps groundwater recharged which feeds springs that keep stream levels more stable even during try periods.

Economic Benefits

Rain barrels can supply you with free water. This can be especially important in periods of drought when there are restrictions on public water use. During these times you can continue to water plants and gardens, wash your car, and use your rain barrel water for other uses that are restricted during a drought.

If your water is supplied by a well on your property, a rain barrel can limit stress on the well for outdoors uses. It can also supply water to flush toilets during power out ages when well pumps are inoperable.

Partners

Town of Leesburg www.leesburgva.gov

Town of Purcellville www.purcellvilleva.com

Town of Lovettsville www.lovettsvilleva.gov

County of Loudoun www.loudoun.gov

How Much Water

The Town of Leesburg receives a little over 43 inches of rain per year on average. Unfortunately, it doesn't all come when its needed, and sometimes it comes way to fast!

Rain Barrels can help store extra water from times of excess and keep it for times of need.

A 1/3 inch rain storm on a 1200 square foot roof will fill four 55 gallon rain barrels. Or, in other words, a downspout which services a 300 square feet of roof, will fill a 55 gallon rain barrel during a 1/3 inch rain storm.

What about the extra water?

Most rain barrels including those from LSWCD are designed with an overflow near the top of the barrel.

A hose attached to the overflow can run to the existing splash block, out to the yard away from the house, or to a tree or other new planting that requires extra water.

The overflow can also be attached to another rain barrel to create additional storage capacity.