

FAQs

WHAT IS A RAIN BARREL?

A rain barrel is any type of container used to catch water flowing from a downspout. Rain barrels reduce the amount of stormwater runoff by collecting roof runoff and storing the rainwater for future use.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING RAIN BARRELS?

The average American household uses 30% of its total water for outdoor applications. Rain barrels provide an alternative to tap water for watering lawns, shrubs and flower gardens which can reduce your water and electric utility bills. This can also help reduce peak water demands during the summer months.

HOW DO RAIN BARRELS IMPACT STORMWATER?

Rain barrels reduce stormwater runoff by capturing it as it leaves your roof. This can reduce the amount of pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals that get washed into our lakes and streams. Reducing stormwater runoff can also reduce the stress on downstream stormwater management and treatment systems.

ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS ON RAIN BARREL USE?

Water collected from rain barrels is not suitable for human or pet consumption. The water flow (and pressure) will be less than from your outdoor spigot which can make sprinklers ineffective. Plan to use soaker hoses, handheld spray nozzles and/or watering cans. Elevating your rain barrel on a sturdy platform will increase the flow.

WHERE CAN I ORDER A RAIN BARREL?

COSWA is partnering with UpCycle Products to provide rain barrels and the accessories discussed in this brochure. Orders can be made online at:

www.UpCycle-Products.com

About COSWA

The Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance (COSWA) is an organization of MS4s in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area which allows participating MS4s to pool resources to satisfy permit obligations on a regional level.

What do we do?

- We participate in events and outreach to help teach the local community about water quality and local stormwater issues.
- We promote the use of rain barrels to help mitigate pollutant discharges and potential downstream flooding.
- We work collaboratively to increase public awareness of stormwater and other environmental issues.

Member Organizations

City of Bethany
City of Choctaw
City of Del City
City of Edmond
City of Harrah
Town of Jones City
City of Midwest City
City of Moore
City of Mustang

City of Nichols Hills
City of Noble
City of Norman
City of Oklahoma City
Oklahoma County
City of Spencer
City of Stillwater
City of The Village
City of Yukon

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
Oklahoma Department of Transportation
Oklahoma Turnpike Authority
Tinker Air Force Base
University of Oklahoma

For more information please visit:
<https://coswa.wordpress.com/>



Rain Barrel Guide



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Still have questions?
Check out our rain
barrel installation
video!



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Rain Barrel Guide



Supplies

RAIN BARREL

UpCycle's rain barrels are created with used food-grade barrels. Each barrel is cleaned and inspected to ensure there are no significant scuffs or scratches that would harm the structural integrity of the barrel and lead to any leakage. The spigot is installed on the nicer-looking face.

RAIN WATER DIVERTER

UpCycle's automatic diverters are made from vinyl fence post covers and attach directly to your rain barrels via an attachment hose. The diverter fits both a 2x3 inch and a 3x4 inch downspout.

LINKING HOSE

Linking hoses are used to attach multiple barrels together. UpCycle rain barrels are supplied with a linking fitting toward the bottom of the barrel.

FLEX ELBOW

Use a flex elbow to direct your downspout discharge into your rain barrel.

PEDESTAL

A wooden pedestal can be used to raise your rain barrel approximately XX inches for easier access and improved water flow.

PLANT HANGER

Made from stainless steel and aluminum strapping, use the plant hanger to help your barrel blend into a natural environment.

PLANT NETTING

Plant netting will allow you to wrap your rain barrel from ground up with a mesh net for climbing flowers.

Installation

Choose a spot for your barrel where you can either tap into or modify a downspout to fill your barrel from. Place concrete blocks or similar sturdy material capable of holding 600 pounds to raise your barrel up approximately 1 foot above the surrounding ground. This will allow you easy access to the spigot with a watering can or bucket. Additionally the elevated barrel will ensure your hose, if used, will flow properly to your flowers. Remember that water seeks its own level. In other words, if the end of your hose is higher than the spigot then the water will not flow out.

Basic installation requires you to cut the downspout 8 inches above the top of the barrel. Make your measurement for the cut considering how high you have raised the barrel.

Attach the downspout elbow so it dispenses the water directly onto the top of the barrel.

Attach a garden hose to the overflow fitting on the top section of the barrel so when it is full the additional water can be diverted away from the foundation of your house and keep the water level below the screening and prevent mosquitoes. DO NOT redirect water back to the base of the home from the overflow fitting. Connect a hose and direct the water away from the house.

Note: If you have gutters that go directly into the ground use the UpCycle Products Rain Water Diverter to hook up your barrel. See "Rain Water Diverter." You can link 2 or more barrels together using a Linking Hose. See "Linking Hose."

Maintenance & Care

During the spring and summer months routinely inspect your rain barrel. Remove any debris that has accumulated on the lid that might block the screen mesh. You should also routinely clean the inside of your rain barrel.

During the winter months, you may leave your barrel in place or take it out of operation. To prepare for the winter season, drain all of the water out of the barrel, remove any hoses, remove the linking fitting cap, and open the spigot. You can leave them standing all winter. Enough water will remain to keep them from being blown over and if that small amount freezes it will not damage the barrel. To store your barrel during the winter, simply turn it upside down or store it inside and redirect the downspout away from the foundation.

If using an optional automatic rain water diverter, follow the instructions that came with the diverter to prepare the diverter for winter.

Upcycle barrels are not painted. If you want to enhance the color or appearance of your barrel you may paint them with paints designed specifically to adhere to polyethylene plastic such as Krylon brand spray paint.

UpCycle Products rain barrels carry a 1 year warranty on the material and workmanship. The warranty can be voided if you leave the barrel out during the winter without opening the spigot and linking hose fitting allowing it to fill with water and freeze resulting in a cracked barrel. For warranty issues, contact 815.735.9583