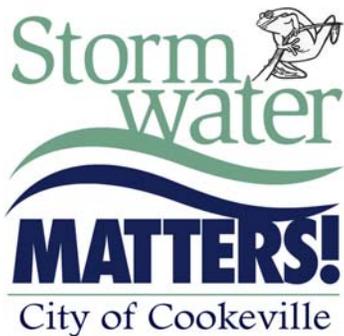


Rain Barrel Maintenance

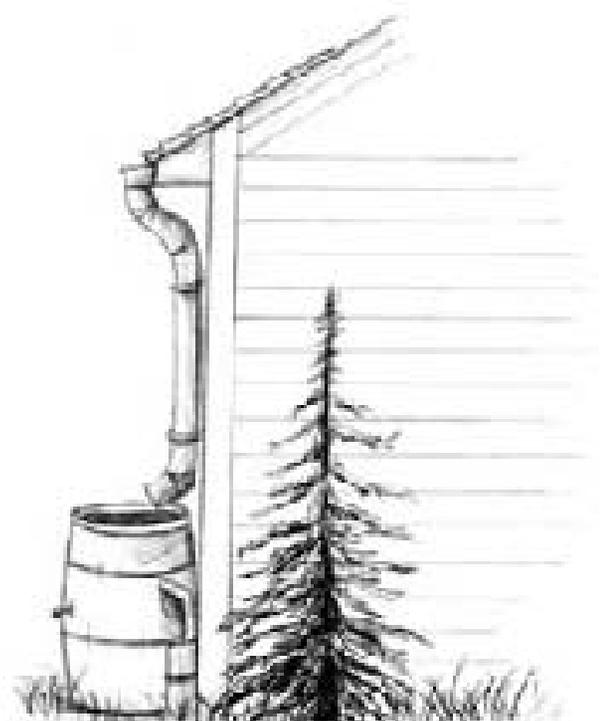
Your Rain Barrel will require minimal maintenance to keep it working efficiently:

- Check the connections, fittings and screen to make sure they are working properly, free of debris, and fitting snugly.
- Empty your rain barrel frequently.
- Clean your gutters, downspout and screen regularly to reduce debris.
- If you have a downspout diverter, close it when the barrel is full.
- Winter Maintenance: Your Rain Barrel and all connecting hoses must be drained during freezing weather to avoid damage. It is recommended to drain the barrel, turn it over to get rid of any remaining water and store the barrel with hoses in a protected area.



City of Cookeville
Stormwater Management

Rain Barrel Tips & How to Install Your Rain Barrel



Rain Barrel Benefits

- Reduce Stormwater Runoff
- Water Conservation
- Water Reuse
- Protection of our Natural Resources
- Clean, Pure Water you can use for many purposes

Tips for Your Rain Barrel

- To Increase flow; you can elevate your barrel by using concrete blocks or building a small stand.

Make sure that your Rain

Barrel is level, so as to avoid a tipping hazard.

- Keep the screen on and secure at all times
- **Do Not use the collected water for drinking, cooking or bathing.**
- Make sure all overflow hoses are directed away from your home's foundation.
- Be sure to check your Rain Barrel during frequent and heavy rains to avoid overflowing water from backing up into your home's foundation.
- If your roof has been treated to keep moss from growing on it do not use the water on plants.
- When watering vegetable crops water the root zone—not the vegetables themselves.

How do I keep mosquitoes out?

While the screen on top prevents adult mosquitoes from getting into your Rain Barrel, larvae can be washed in from your gutters. You can help prevent breeding by emptying the barrel regularly, or adding “mosquito dunks” into the water. Mosquito Dunks are a bacterial larvicide, a non-toxic bacterium that kills mosquito larvae. It is safe for your plants, and it can't harm pets or people. You can find the product at most garden supply stores.

How do I Install a Rain Barrel?

The Rain Barrel should be placed so that it collects as much rain as possible from your roof. If you have downspouts you can shorten a downspout to end above the barrel, and reattach the end elbow joint to direct the flow. You can also choose to attach a downspout diverter which allows you to either direct water into your rain barrel or to your normal drain system. If you do not have gutters, the rain barrel can be placed under a corner where two roof sections create a valley. Position the rain barrel carefully so that it catches the water from a light rain as well as a more forceful flow during a downpour.