

Rain Barrel Maintenance

- Store it inside during the winter or outside turned upside with the spout covered.
- Ensure the overflow tube is facing away from the foundation.
- Have a screen or store bought cover or screen to keep bugs, debris and mosquitoes out. A few drops of dish soap also aids with mosquitoes.
- For smelly stagnate water and algae build up: empty barrel and clean with 2 parts water and 1 part bleach.

Rain Barrel Safety

Conduct research before using a rain barrel to ensure the safety of the rain barrel, your home and vegetables!

- Vegetables should not be washed in rain water prior to consumption.
- Buy a food-grade barrel with the correct signage (on right) when used for food consumption
- Rain barrels should not be used with roofs containing asbestos.
- For chemical concerns do not use the first rain fall load and empty the barrel through the bottom.



Source: <http://www.rainbarrelguide.com/safety-maintenance/>
<http://www.greatersudbury.ca/living/sewer-and-water/lawn-and-garden-watering-tips/rain-barrel/winterizing-your-rain-barrel/>
Picture: <http://www.hoax-slayer.com/plastic-coding-system.shtml>

Other Ways to Conserve Water

- Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth
- Take shorter showers
- Fix leaky faucets and hose nozzles
- Don't use the toilet as a waste basket
- Install low flow faucets and Energy star appliances
- Insulate water pipes
- Minimize use of disposal units

For information please contact
EOS Eco-Energy at 536 - 4487 or e-mail
EOS@nb.aibn.com

For information on purchasing rain barrels please
contact Eco-Container Co. at (506) 379 - 2211;
(506) 379 - 0678 or e-mail macxjack@rogers.com

Eco-Container Co.

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Rain Barrels & Water Conservation



Pictures: <http://www.findaleak.co.uk/water-conservation.html> & Max MacNichol

Water Use Facts!

- Canadians are the second highest consumer of water world wide
- 11 litres (3 gallons) runs from the average tap per minute
- 151 litres (40 gallons) are used in a 10 minute shower
- A bath uses an average of 75 litres (20 gallons)

Canadians use 329 litres of water per person per day

- 95 litres (25 gallons) are used to flush a toilet per person per day
- Traditional (non-energy star) clothes washers use up to 189 litres (50 gallons) per load
- A dishwasher uses approximately 53 litres (14 gallons) per load
- An average hose uses 492 litres (130 gallons) every 15 minutes
- Washing your car can use 378 - 606 litres (100 - 160 gallons)

Source: <http://www.stormwater.cecs.ucf.edu/toolkit/vol1/Contents/pdfs/Water%20Conservation/Water%20used%20handout.pdf>

Why Conserve Water?

Water is one of the world's most precious resources. People use it daily for brushing their teeth and washing their cars. It is used in food and clothing production.

Less than 1% of the world's water is available for human use

Because of the limited amount of potable water and continuing increase in population it is important to not over use what resources we have. Water is currently being used at a faster rate than it can be replenished. Climate change predicts more intense storms and frequencies but also longer drought periods calling for the need to conserve water.

How Rain Barrels Conserve Water

A rain barrel collects rain water from the down spout off your roof. The water can be used for various tasks such as washing your car and watering your garden, even the vegetable garden! Saving countless amounts of fresh water for other uses.

The average savings from a rain barrel is 4900 litres (1300 gallons) of water a summer and water meter savings of \$200.

Benefits of a Rain Barrel

- Reduced water bill and conserving fresh water for other uses
- Have aided in removing wet spots from basements and electric bill savings when a sub pump is installed
- The over flow tube can be directed to a rain garden to help recharge and filter ground water
- Rain water is better for plants and soil
- You'll have available water during times of drought and times of limited use
- Contributes to erosion prevention efforts and reduces pollution run off



Picture by Max Machichol

Source: <http://gardenrainbarrel.blogspot.ca/2012/03/rainbarrels-parts-pros-and-cons.html>
<http://www.treehugger.com/sustainable-product-design/5-great-rain-barrel-designs-plus-top-tips-for-using-them/page2.html>
<http://homeguides.sfgate.com/benefits-rain-barrels-78431.html>
<http://www.url.edu/ce/healthylifestyle/scapes/rainbsources.html>