

SET UP

1. **Observe your site:** Where does the runoff from your roof area go now? Where does the downspout currently drain?
2. **Plan your rain barrel:** Check local ordinances before disconnecting downspouts and layout a safe overflow location.
3. **Construction:** Buy a fully assembled rain barrel, or build it yourself.
4. **Maintenance:** Drain your barrel regularly, and winterize your rain barrel during the winter season.



BENEFITS

- Reduces runoff and non-point source pollution
- Helps prevent erosion and flooding
- Conserves drinking water resources
- Supplies a free source of water for outdoor use
- Provides mineral-rich water for plants

TIPS

- Elevate your rain barrel to improve water pressure of the outflow.
- Common sizes for residential use are 55 and 90 gallons.
- Use only clean, food-grade barrels.
- Must be secured on a firm, level subsurface. A full 55-gallon rain barrel weighs over 400 lbs.
- Never use the collected water for potable uses, including for any pets or livestock.

A **rain barrel** is a storage tank that captures runoff water from a catchment area such as a rooftop for rainwater harvesting, storage, and reuse.



According to the EPA, a 55-gallon rain barrel can save an average of **1,300 gallons** of water per year.



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Rain Barrels



MAKE EVERY DROP COUNT

 **Tinkers Creek**
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