

Rain Barrel Accessories and Installation Assistance

Overflow Hose

Overflow hose kit (with sump pump hose)
<http://www.homedepot.com> and search item number 1001098895

Diverters

Instead of using the overflow hose, another option is to connect a “diverter” that will direct rainwater from your downspout into your barrel. Some of them work automatically (when the barrel is full, the water resumes flowing down the downspout), and others need to be switched manually.

Automatic Diverters

Some rain barrel users have recommended the first diverter listed below. When the barrel fills up, the water automatically resumes flowing down the downspout. The other two styles linked below work in a similar fashion.

<http://www.gardeners.com/> (Downspout Diverter, item 33-991)

<http://www.bayteccontainers.com/gawasa.html>

<http://rainbarreldepot.com/>

http://rainreserve.com/rain_diverter_kits

Manual Diverter

This diverter includes a manual switch to direct water to the rain barrel, or to the gutter (allows for easy winterization).

<http://www.aquabarrel.com/downspout-diverters-c-31/>

Large Size Diverters

If you have over-sized downspouts

<http://www.downspoutdiverters.com/>

There are additional styles/brands of diverters online as well – please search for “rain barrel diverter”.

Rain Barrel Pump

<https://www.therainbarreldepot.com/rain-barrel-pump/> Solar rain barrel pump

<http://www.amazon.com/Algreen-500GPH-Rain-Barrel-Pump/dp/B00ANFXKM2> Algreen rain barrel pump

Sources for Additional Barrels

If you would like additional barrels to make more rain barrels, there are some local sources of barrels – please see the links below. Prices and style of barrels vary.

Abbey Drum Company: <https://www.mauserpackaging.com/Products-and-Services/Products/Drums>

Warring Barrels: <https://www.warringbarrels.com/industrialfarmhousehold>

Rain Barrel Depot: <https://www.therainbarreldepot.com/rain-barrels/>

Installation Assistance

Some people requested assistance with installing their rain barrel. Here are some people that can help with installation, for a fee.

- Jack Guthrie, jgservice325@gmail.com, 919-357-3034
- Mary Ann Dawedeit, www.rollouttherainbarrel.com, 301-641-1699

Disclaimer: *The information provided is intended to be helpful. The partners of the regional rain barrel program cannot endorse or recommend any particular product or company. Individual rain barrel installers are not affiliated with the Northern Virginia Rain Barrel Program.*

Maintaining Your Rain Barrel

Rain Barrel Reminders

- **Do not use rain barrel water for cooking or drinking.**
- Keep the window screening on your barrel to prevent mosquitoes. Add additional screening over the end of your overflow hose, if you use one.
- Add a mosquito “dunk” to the barrel as extra insurance against mosquitoes.
- Use the water before the next rain or within a week, or connect the spigot to a soaker hose in your garden.
- Do not collect rain water if you use a moss-killer on your roof.

Winterizing Your Rain Barrel

It is a good idea to disconnect your rain barrel during the winter, to avoid having the water in the barrel freeze and stress the plastic walls of the barrel. To disconnect your rain barrel:

- First, empty out your rain barrel.
- Remove the barrel from under the downspout.
- Re-attach the piece of the downspout that you cut off to install the rain barrel, or remove the diverter that you have connected to the barrel.
- Clean out your rain barrel using vinegar and water, or biodegradable soap. Check for clogs in the downspout and/or diverter and the overflow valve, and clean them out.
- Store your rain barrel in the garage, basement, or outdoors (upside down).
- Alternately, you can leave the rain barrel in place and leave the spigot on the rain barrel open (perhaps connected to a short hose) so that any water that enters the barrel will drain out, and not freeze in the barrel.

Maintenance Checks

- Every year, check the screening on the top of the barrel to make sure it doesn't have any holes. If you need to replace it, you can use regular window screening available at hardware stores.
- Check the caulk around the spigot. If you need to add more, you can use bath or kitchen caulk.

Painting Your Rain Barrel

- Clean off any visible dirt from your rain barrel. Find a location that has plenty of ventilation (preferably outdoors) and cover the area under where you'll be working with newspaper or a paint cloth.
- If your rain barrel is plastic, you will need to do a base coat with plastic primer. This is available in spray cans in several colors at most hardware or home improvement stores.
- Once your base coat has dried, you can paint over it with any latex or acrylic paint. Many residents paint their rain barrel the same color as their house, or come up with fun and funky designs to make their rain barrel really stand out!
- Once you have finished painting your rain barrel, it is a good idea to do a final clear coat over the paint to protect from UVA/UVB fading. This can also be found in a spray paint can. A product that has been successfully used is Krylon UV-Resistant Clear in a matte finish.



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