

## Rain Barrels Help Save The Planet

More and more people are returning to the use of rain barrels. The most likely reasons for this are drought situations occurring in many parts of the country as well as an increasing awareness of the need for water conservation in general.

People decide to store rainwater for different reasons. Many see it as the answer to maintaining green lawns and healthy gardens despite watering restrictions in water poor cities and towns. Some may decide to set up rain barrels to reduce costs related to metered water fees. Water routed from rain barrels and cisterns can be used, not only for watering plants and grass, but for washing, bathing and mostly any water use other than consumption or cooking.

Many people concerned with conservation and maintaining green lifestyles use rain barrels with water conservation as their primary goal.

Setting up rain barrels can be as simple or elaborate as your pocketbook allows. The basic requirements include the following items: 1. Rain gutter with a downspout 2. Barrel or other large container 3. Screen to block leaves and twigs, etc. 4. Solid lid 5. Distribution device

Your existing rain gutters will take care of the first item needed. If not, installing them will be an important first step. A downspout will divert the rainwater into the waiting container.

Rain barrels can be wood or plastic, new or recycled. If a recycled barrel is used, make sure you know what the barrel has stored in the past to avoid tainting the water with harmful residues. Solid, fitted covers ensure rain barrels will not be a danger to children. Rain barrels need a distribution outlet in the form of a spout with a valve or a piece of hose. A benefit of harvesting rainwater is that it has no chlorine or other chemicals which makes it healthy for plants. Even when watering bans are not in place, recycling rainwater for the sprinkler, etc. insures more water for consumption. Also, when rain fills the drains and gutters, it mixes with wastewater and runs off into rivers and streams. By harvesting rainwater to water gardens and lawns, it allows the water to drain through the rock beds and naturally reenter the water system in a purified state.

On a personal level, using rain barrels to collect and store rainwater helps your wallet as well as your plants. It is also good for the environment by reducing consumption and improving the quality of our natural water supplies.

## About the Author

Learn more about rain barrel, review [here](#).

Source: <http://pboulduc.com>