

Rain Barrels for Water Quality

During the spring and summer months, consider turning to rainwater for your lawn and garden needs. Installing a rain barrel has both ecological and economical benefits. Rain is naturally devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride and other chemicals. Collecting rainwater in barrels can also help save money on your water bill.

Rain Barrel Features to Consider

- Removable top – useful for dipping water out with a watering can.
- Overflow portal at the top of the barrel – can be used to handle excess rainwater (overflow) or to connect several rain barrels together.
- Stand or blocks for raising the rain barrel two feet or more. Elevation is essential for water pressure through a hose.
- Screen over rain barrel opening – to catch debris from the roof.

NOTE: Mosquito dunks are recommended, since there will be standing water in the bottom of the barrel for most of the year.

Rain barrels come in many shapes and sizes and are designed to be safe and convenient. They generally cost \$70 to \$250. Rain barrels can be purchased from one of the Internet retailers listed below and at most Home Depot, Sears, and Ace Hardware stores.

For more information, please visit www.rainbarrelusa.com, www.sprucecreekrainsaver.com, and, www.aquabarrel.com.

