

# RAIN BARREL Installation

*One inch  
of rain  
falling  
in one day  
on 1,000  
square feet  
of roof  
can produce  
over  
600 gallons  
of water!*



## Location

Before installing rain barrels, take a moment to consider how the rain barrels will be used, how much water will be needed (especially during drier months), how many are being installed and how overflow will be handled. Also, make sure rain barrels are clean and free of debris before installing them. If the rain barrel(s) will be attached to a downspout, choose a convenient, easy-to-access location.



Duane Jager - 55 gal x2

## Downspout Disconnection

There are a number of ways to connect the downspout to the rain barrel. Where you cut the downspout will depend on the type of connector material you choose. A flexible downspout extender makes an easy transition, eliminating the need for exact measurement because it bends and stretches. You can also use a downspout elbow, a section of straight downspout crimped on one end to fit into the hole, a rubber bib or coupling formed into a funnel shape or a chain that hangs from your gutter and drains directly into the rain barrel. Cut the downspout, then secure one connector



Todd Edison & Carrie Blackwood

## Bases

Rain barrels can be installed upright or tipped on their sides. Bases should be strong, sturdy and flat, and can be made from:

- Cinder Blocks
- Bricks
- Stones
- Wood
- Cement

Barrel(s) should be placed high enough off the ground – generally a foot or more – to be able to fill a watering can, or attach a hose and get good pressure. Place the barrel(s) on the base with the intake hole closest to the downspout.

## DECORATING RAIN BARRELS



Michael Costelloe

*Start with a clean, dry rain barrel. Scuff the surface with sandpaper so the paint has something to adhere too. Prime, let dry, then paint with exterior house paint. More than one finish coat may be needed depending on the original color of your barrel and the paint color. White barrels should be painted to reduce algae growth. Stickers and colored tape adhere well to rain barrels too.*

end to the downspout and position the other on top of, or in, the hole. Use screws (if needed) to attach the downspout connector to the downspout.



Yvonne Dean



Colleen Burrows - 55 gal

*For commercial rain barrel installation, follow manufacturer instructions.*

**SAFETY REMINDER: A full, 55-gallon rain barrel can weigh up to 450 pounds!  
Be sure to place your rain barrel(s) on a strong, sturdy and flat base.**

## MATERIALS

### Downspout Disconnection Options:

- Flexible Downspout Extender
- Downspout Elbow
- Straight Downspout Section
- Rubber Bib or Coupling

### Overflow Options:

- Garden hose (wide thread end) or with hose clamp
- Double-threaded pipe

## Overflow

Todd Edison & Carrie Blackwood



As your rain barrel(s) fills, you will want to consider what to do with any overflow. Sections of

garden hose, pipe or downspouts can all be used to handle overflow via the overflow valve. Overflow can be directed back down the old downspout. If allowed to flow naturally, it must flow onto a landscaped area or lawn large enough to filter the water – generally an area about 15 square feet. Overflow must be directed at least 10 feet away from any foundation or impervious surface (like a driveway or sidewalk) and 5 feet away from a neighboring property or right of way.



John Wiley & Carolyn Milling

## TOOLS

- Drill
- Saw
- Screwdriver



Todd Edison & Carrie Blackwood

## Multiple Rain Barrels

Multiple rain barrels can be installed in one location. Connect two or more rain barrels via an extra intake hole on top or through the overflow fitting near the top and side of the barrel(s). Starting with the main rain barrel (the one connected to the downspout), connect overflow hoses to each additional rain barrel. When you reach the last rain barrel, make sure overflow is directed away from your house or neighboring property (see Overflow info at left).



Lisa Meucci - 55 gal



Christine Morris - 55 gal X3



Roger Stillman



[www.cob.org/services/environment/conservation](http://www.cob.org/services/environment/conservation)