

## Preventing Mosquitoes

Your rain barrel will be equipped with a mosquito screen under the lid to keep mosquitoes and other insects out.

- ◆ Place your barrel on a pervious (landscaped) surface so that overflow water soaks into the ground instead of pooling on paved surfaces.
- ◆ Keep your rain barrel lid sealed.
- ◆ Keep your barrel free of organic material.
- ◆ During the rainy season, every 3-4 days use your hand to splash off any water that may collect on top of the barrel. Mosquitoes need at least 4 days of standing water to develop as larva.
- ◆ If you believe mosquitoes are breeding in your rain barrel, empty your barrel completely. This will kill all mosquito larvae that may be in your barrel. If your mosquito netting is intact and there are no leaks where mosquitoes can enter the barrel, your rain barrel should be mosquito-free.

## Disclaimer

With proper installation, maintenance and use, your rain barrel should function properly. The Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District assumes no liability for the installation, maintenance, property damage or injury associated with your rain barrel.



Kane-DuPage SWCD  
2315 Dean St.  
Suite 100  
St. Charles, IL 60175  
(630) 584-7961 Ext. 3  
[www.kanedupageswcd.org](http://www.kanedupageswcd.org)

## Kane-DuPage SWCD Rain Barrel Program



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## Why Harvest Rainwater with Rain Barrels?

### **Helps Reduce Stormwater Pollution**

Rainwater stored in rain barrels helps reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and the amount of pollutants that are picked up and carried to storm sewers, creeks and the Fox River.

### **Conserves Water Supply Resources**

Rainwater used from rain barrels helps reduce the amount of water used from underground aquifers.

### **Better for Plants and Gardens**

Rainwater stored in rain barrels is a naturally soft water and devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals. For this reason, plants respond very well to rainwater. After all, it's what plants in the wild thrive on!

### **Helps Inform Your Neighbors**

One of the best reasons to start harvesting rainwater with rain barrels is to teach and encourage others to do the same. You will help to spread the culture of rainwater collection and in turn, help your larger community and the environment. It is always important to remember that every living thing on the planet needs water to survive so, we as humans must expand our idea of community to the plants and animals that surround us.

## Using Rain Barrel Water

- ◆ Water your flowers, trees, shrubs, and lawn
- ◆ Wash your car; rinse tools or muddy boots.
- ◆ DO NOT DRINK WATER from your rain barrel.
- ◆ DO NOT COOK OR BATHE with water from your rain barrel.



All of the plastic rain barrels are made from re-cycled food grade barrels. The rain barrels have a screw on top with one inch holes, screen mesh to keep out debris and mosquitoes. An overflow male hose connection, a drain valve and a connection to attach additional barrels.

## Rain Barrel Instructions

- ◆ It is a good idea to put your barrel up on a flat, stable platform (concrete blocks, landscaping blocks or other solid support). The added height increases the water pressure and allows you to put a bucket under the spigot to bring water to your indoor plants. A full 55 gallon rain barrel weighs over 450 pounds.
- ◆ Provide overflow hoses or pipes to direct water away from your house foundation for times of high rainfall.
- ◆ Locate and install your rain barrel to keep kids safe. Keep your rain barrel lid tight at all times to prevent children, animals and insects from entering or falling in.
- ◆ Measure and cut the downspout. (Keep the cut off for reattachment in the winter). Use two elbows or a flexible spout attachment to direct the water to the top of the barrel. The end of the downspout should be cut 2-3 inches above the top of the barrel. Downspouts can be cut with a hacksaw. Flexible spouts can be purchased at hardware stores or home centers.
- ◆ In the Fall, you will want to empty your rain barrel and store it or flip it over. Replace the downspout you saved for the Winter.
- ◆ Diverters are available that can easily switch the downspout from filling the barrel to normal operation once the barrel is full.

## Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Qty	Total
Rain Barrel (\$80.00)		

Rain Barrels will be available for pick up at the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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If you have any questions about the rain barrels. Please call the office to check on availability prior to ordering.

**(630)584-7961 Ext. 3**