

Rain barrels around the home

It may be a somewhat harsh realization, but the fact is that by our very existence, human beings have placed quite a bit of a toll on the environment. The earth's supply of resources is hardly inexhaustible, with water being one of those that are often in short supply. With all the water that each of us uses up on a daily basis, there is a very real threat that there may not be enough left for future generations. This is especially relevant since many parts of the world have to endure water shortages on a regular basis, and the problem is only bound to get a lot worse in the future. It is now more important than ever to take certain steps in order to conserve water as much as possible, and we can do our own small part by installing rain barrels.

The most basic function of rain barrels is to collect the water that comes from rain, which is useful for a lot of things in and around the home. The water that you collect can be used for anything from watering your plants to washing your cars, for cleaning tools, and virtually every other use for non-potable water. This water is particularly suited for the irrigation of outdoor plants and lawns, because it is after all coming from a natural source and is typically softer than the water that you can get from your tap.

There is a wide range of options to choose from with regard to rain barrels, with store-bought models offering the convenience of added features such as faucet attachments and pipe fittings, and you can even make your own from commonly available and inexpensive materials. Whatever type of rain barrels you go for will do a good enough job of collecting rainwater, although you will have to determine how you want to use it when making your choice of which type to buy. Rain barrels that are intended for installation in a spot in your yard where there is no faucet handy should be of the commercially available type with built-in faucet attachments. Many commercial rain barrels also come with features that prevent rainwater from flowing over the sides and into the ground below, and instead redirect it to another receptacle.

If your needs are fairly basic however, you may find that homemade rain barrels are more than enough to get the job done. You can even make them out of readily available plastic jugs and large buckets. Rain barrels of this sort are quite affordable, and you can easily make more than a few of them.

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