

Rain Barrels Make A Comeback

Rain barrels are coming back into popularity. 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. Others turn to rain barrels to keep their water bills down. Other than drinking and cooking, water from rain barrels or cisterns can fill a multitude of needs.

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. Regardless of the source of your barrel, you will need the following basics: 1. Rain gutter and downspout 2. Barrel or other large container 3. Screen to block leaves and twigs, etc. 4. Tight fitting lid 5. Distribution device

If you already have rain gutters on your home you have a head start. 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. Childproof your rain barrels with tight fitting lids. 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.

Recycling rainwater rather than using potable supplies for watering lawns and plants reduces the stress on water supplies to municipalities. Also, when rain fills the drains and gutters, it mixes with wastewater and runs off into rivers and streams. Natural drainage through the soil and rock bed purifies the water before it reenters the ecosystem.

Use of rain barrels is good for individuals because it reduces water costs and keeps gardens and lawns healthy. Additionally, whether your primary goal or a byproduct, you will contribute to water conservation and environmental safety.

About the Author

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