



Rain barrel Fall Sale 2010

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service-Rowan County is selling rain barrels. Barrels are heavy duty commercial grade polyethylene with a brass spigot and overflow valves. The barrels are designed to collect water to irrigate shrubs and other plant materials during periods of drought.

Costs: \$100—80 gallon barrel
\$90—60 gallon barrel

Contact Cooperative Extension at 704-216-8970 to place an order before August 31, 2010. Rain barrels will be picked up at the Cooperative Extension Office on September 2—from 8 am until 4:00 pm.

Rain barrels feature solid HDPE construction, Brass spigot, Brass overflow ports (2) with male garden hose thread; Uses standard garden hose for water distribution, Requires no special hoses or piping, Stainless Steel entry cover protects screen, Easy debris removal, Standard fittings can be replaced if damaged, Replaceable aluminum screen to prohibit insects, Removable lid for barrel cleaning, Top can be secured for safety, Accommodates any size downspout, Concave top channels rain to center, Low mounted spigot offers more usable water from barrel, Ribbed sides for extra strength, Dark color prevents algae growth, Minimum assembly, Dark green color blends with shrubbery

Specifications:

60 Gallon Dark Green Custom Molded with Embossed Logo Lid

Material High Density Polyethylene HDPE UV resistant

Fittings Brass Ports and Spigot, Standard Male Garden Hose thread

Stainless Steel Entry Cover

Shipping Weight 22 Pounds 31 inches High 28 inches Wide

80 Gallon Dark Green Custom Molded with Embossed Logo Lid

Material High Density Polyethylene HDPE UV resistant

Fittings Brass Ports and Spigot, Standard Male Garden Hose thread

Stainless Steel Entry Cover

Shipping Weight 27 Pounds

37 inches High 28 Inches Wide

Setup Instructions: 60 and 80 Gallon Rain Barrels

Tools: One 8" adjustable Wrench and Phillips Head screwdriver

The 60 and 80 Gallon rain barrels are delivered without the brass spigot and overflow ports installed. However, fittings have already been molded into your barrel for the placement of these brass pieces.

A small plastic package containing the brass pieces and two screws is taped to the drum. The brass faucet has been wrapped with Teflon tape. Do not remove the Teflon tape. The two brass overflow valves are wrapped in Teflon tape and go into the molded fitting on each side of the barrel near the top at the rear. Start the valves by hand being careful not to cross thread. Each fitting should turn easily into the mold until it is finger tight. Using the adjustable wrench, turn the brass fittings $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ turn to tighten them. That's all there is to it.

Now start the faucet into its opening near the bottom of the drum at the front. Again tighten the piece until it is finger tight. Now use the wrench to seat the faucet. Usually one full turn is enough to seal the faucet so that it does not leak. Do not over tighten. Check the barrel after the first rain for a leak. Then tighten as necessary.

For safety reasons, we recommend the lid of your rain barrel be secured with the screws included in the packet. On the side of the lid, simply pick a spot about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch down from the flat area near the edge. Start the screw, making sure you will catch the turned down edge of the barrel under the lid. Seat the screw to its full depth. Do the same on the opposite side of the barrel.

We suggest hoses be connected to the brass overflow valves to direct excess water away from your home. A garden hose connected to the faucet will permit easy watering of your plants which are level with or downhill from your rain barrel.

Installation Instructions

Tools: Work gloves, tape measure, hacksaw, screwdriver, pencil, pliers.

Important, your rain barrel must be placed on a solid, level surface. Water weighs over 8.2 pounds per gallon. A full 60 gallon barrel will weigh 500 pounds. An 80 gallon barrel will weigh close to 700 pounds. We suggest you raise the barrel with landscape blocks.

One inch of rainfall on a 1000 square feet surface will provide over 620 gallons of water. Depending on the size of the area from which your downspout collects water, most barrels will fill in even a brief rain.

Your rain barrel has a brass overflow valve located toward the rear on each side. We suggest garden hoses be connected to the valves to help divert overflow rain away from your home's foundation. The rainwater can be directed to a nearby garden or shrubbery area.

The barrel has a screened entry and permits water to enter the barrel from the top without a direct connection into the barrel. For a normal connection, simply remove the elbow located at the bottom of your downspout by removing the sheet metal screw which fastens the piece. Now place the rain barrel in the position you have selected; set the elbow on the top of the barrel. Draw a line across the downspout at the top of the elbow. Now measure down one inch from that line and mark again. This is the line you will cut. The extra inch allows room to fasten the elbow to the downspout.



Caution: aluminum and plastic downspout edges are sharp; please wear your work gloves when handling the cut edges. Cutting the downspout with a hacksaw is easy but very noisy. After the cut, use the pliers to bend in the middle of all four sides to form a taper which will allow the elbow to slip up easily into place. Slide the elbow up over the downspout and fasten with a screw. Direct the water toward the center. For safety, two screws are furnished to secure the top to the barrel to prevent children, pets and wildlife from entering the barrel.

Options, major home improvement stores have flexible downspouts, one about 18 long, the other about two feet long that will allow the edge of your rain barrel to line up with a corner of the house and the center of the barrel to still be reached by this flexible downspout. Cost of the short flexible downspout should be about three bucks, the other about eight.