

## Rain Barrel Facts

**Historical Use:** Until the 1940s, the rain barrel was a common sight at farms and homes throughout rural America. Rainwater often was softer than well-supplied water, and wooden barrels placed under the roof edge of a barn could catch hundreds of gallons of water during a brief shower. But with modern plumbing, the rain barrel became unnecessary. Until now.

**How much water will come off my roof? Will my barrel get full?** One inch of rainfall on a 1000 (10' x 10') square foot roof provides over 600 gallons of stormwater.

Using the above data, let's assume a roof has a single peak that runs the entire length of the roof and there are no other peaks or valleys. That means there is 500 square feet on a side which will result in 300 gallons of water per side in that one inch rainfall. Two downspouts that are evenly spaced on each side of a house we would have 150 gallons of water coming down each of the four downspouts. Our barrels hold about 50 gallons, assuming it is empty. So you will either need 3 barrels, per downspout, all connected together to hold that runoff or if you have fewer barrels make sure your overflow pipe is installed.

## Rain Barrel Benefits

- ◆ **Save** - Conserve water, reduce demand for treated tap water, and save money by lowering your monthly bill. A rain barrel can save over 1,000 gallons of water during peak summer months.
- ◆ **Happier plants** - Rainwater is free of the additives (e.g., chlorine and fluoride) in tap water that plants don't need or want. Rainwater is also slightly acidic, helping plants access soil nutrients. And if your city restricts watering during times of dry weather, it may be the only way to avoid having your garden wilt. The water stored in a rain barrel can be used to water lawns and gardens either with a traditional hose, soaker hose or with a watering can.
- ◆ **Building protection** - Control moisture levels around the foundation of buildings.
- ◆ **Flexibility** - As water storage needs change, the number of barrels in a system can follow suit.
- ◆ **Reduced stormwater runoff** - Rain barrels can divert a limited amount of stormwater from roofs, reducing strains on urban streams and storm sewer systems. Water and pollutants that go down a storm drain in the street go directly to the Red River, not to a waste water treatment facility. If stored water will not be used for plants or a lawn, slowly release stored water by allowing it to drain through the lower opening. Attach a hose to direct the water where you want it to flow. Make sure your barrel is empty or lowered enough to capture the maximum amount of water expected with each rain event.

# RAIN BARRELS: Basic Information, For Sale, and Make Your Own



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## For Sale

### Assembled Rain Barrels

**ON SALE (regular \$85).....\$50**  
55 gallon used food grade barrel  
Available in blue or white

### Hardware Kit.....\$35

1- Flexi-Fit Diverter  
1- 3 piece Hole Saw Set  
1- Sprigot and threaded Rubber Seal  
1- Fill Hose and Rubber Seal  
1- "Do Not Drink This Water" Sticker  
1- Installation Screws  
1- Installation instructions

### Barrel.....\$35

1-55 gallon used food grade barrel  
Blue or White

To buy an assembled rain barrel,  
hardware kit and/or barrel, or for more  
information contact Jessica:  
jessica@riverkeepers.org or  
701.235.2895



## Equipment

Assembled rain barrels come equipped with a threaded spout, overflow hose, and the grate with thin mesh for debris collection. The only part not included in the price is the downspout extension which can be found at any local home store for around \$10.

Tools required for assembly of the Rain Barrel Kit include safety glasses, safety gloves, drill, tape measure, pencil, scissors, Phillips screwdriver and a level.

Orders must be placed by e-mailing or calling River Keepers. Orders will usually be ready for pick up 3 days after the order is placed. Usually the order must be picked up during normal working hours 8-5 but if necessary other arrangements can be made.

### Maintenance:

Don't use the barrel in the winter to avoid ice damage. Drain the barrel, remove the inlet hose and leave all faucets open before freezing weather.

## Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop

Save money on your water bill and help protect the Red River's water quality by making your own rain barrel! This workshop is taught by River Keepers and Cass County Soil Conservation District.

**When:** To be announced. Check out our events listed on Facebook and [www.cassscd.org](http://www.cassscd.org) for updates.

**Fee:** \$74.00 includes supplies.



Cass County residents may be eligible for partial reimbursement of fee; information will be available at the conclusion of the workshop.

Come prepared to carry home an empty 55-gallon drum.

**To register:** contact Moorhead Community Education at [www.moorheadschoools.org/Schools/Alternative-Schools/Community-Education/](http://www.moorheadschoools.org/Schools/Alternative-Schools/Community-Education/) or by calling 218.284.3400.