



What is a Rain Barrel:

Rain barrels are containers used to collect rainwater from the roof of a building via the gutter and downspout. The downspout is cut to a height that permits the rainwater to flow into a barrel placed beneath it. The barrel should have a spigot to which a hose may be attached, and an overflow hose to direct rainwater away from the foundation if rain continues after the barrel is full. Rain barrels are often made from 55-gallon food-grade plastic barrels, although they can also be made of wood. The collected water can be used to water gardens or lawns, wash cars, fill swimming pools or do other household chores.

Locations Where Rain Barrels may be Purchased:

- Lowe's
- Home Depot
- Walmart
- Target
- Nurseries
- On Line

Local Regulations

- There are no regulations that prohibit the collection of rain

Web Sites:

- www.rockwall.com under "Conserve Rockwall" and "Water Conservation"
- www.watershedactivities.com
- www.rainbarrelsource.com
- <http://www.cleanairgardening.com/rainbarrels.html>

Informational Sites:

- www.savetexaswater.org
- www.twdb.state.tx.us
- www.aqrilife.com

Rain Barrel Options:

- Purchase premade rain barrels at most home and garden stores, nurseries or online
- Purchase materials to build/design your own

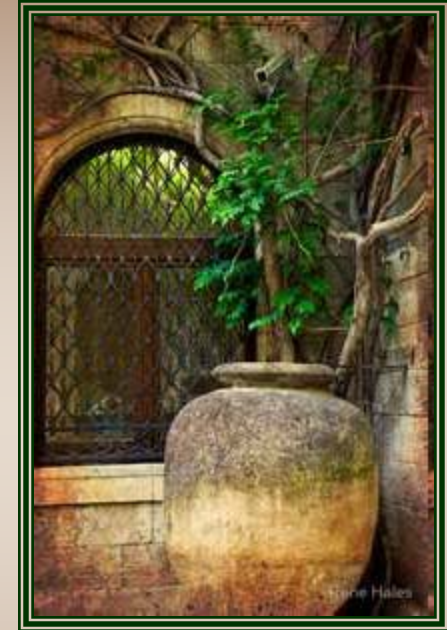
Sanitation:

- Empty rain barrels every four to six days
- Use small portions of mosquito dunks
 - bacterial larvicide that kill mosquito larvae
 - dunks slowly release an active ingredient, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), that kills mosquitoes for 30 days or more
 - safe for your plants and not harmful to pets or people
- Cover the rain barrel with fine screening
 - keeps mosquitoes out and prevents them from laying eggs
 - place plastic mesh window screening over your rain barrel's openings
 - add cheesecloth on top of the screen as an additional filter
- Have an overflow hole on the rain barrel to keep the water level below the screen
 - mosquitoes can breed in the water between the screen and the top of the water surface if the rain barrel is full to the top

Interesting Facts:

- One inch of rain on a 1000 sq-ft roof yields 623 gallons of water.
- You can calculate the yield of your roof by multiplying the square footage of your roof by 623 and dividing by 1000.
- Runoff Efficiency Rate:
 - Tile/metal roof assume a 95% runoff efficiency
 - Concrete/asphalt roof assume a 95% runoff efficiency
 - Gravel roof assume a 70% runoff efficiency
 - Bare soil roof assume a 75% runoff efficiency
 - Grass roof assume a 17% runoff efficiency

Rain Collection



Styles for Every Taste



Rain Collection Fences



Freestanding Rain Collection Fence





Rain Harvesting Fence
71 Gallons, \$179

AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL

