

Needham Water Conservation Program



The Rain Barrel:

The Rain Barrel is a recycled olive shipping container that holds 60 gallons of precious rain water. The barrel is one of the largest capacity rain barrels available today! It is also the best built and most durable with a wall thickness of 3/16"; resulting in a rigid, heavy duty rain barrel that will last virtually forever.

Color choices:

Barrels are offered painted or unpainted. Painted barrels come in Earth Brown, Nantucket Gray, and Forest Green. Choose from these environmentally compatible colors or the original unpainted color of dark gray or black.

The specs: 60 gallons, stands 39" tall by 24" wide, weighs 20 lbs. empty, food grade, UV protected, highly durable 3/16" polyethylene.

The parts: insect screen, screw-on lid, overflow valve, overflow hose, drain plug, threaded plastic spigot, additional overflow valve or linking valve for connecting barrels.

Installation:

The rain barrel only takes minutes to set up. The spigot, overflow valve, hose, and complete directions are packaged inside the barrel. All you need to do is prepare the downspout, insert the spigot and overflow fittings into the pre-drilled holes and wait for rain!

Why use a Rain Barrel?

a. They irrigate your lawn and garden

During the summer months it is estimated that nearly 40 percent of household water is used for lawn and garden maintenance. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for those times that you need it most — during the dry summer months. Using rain barrels potentially helps homeowners' lower water bills, while also improving the vitality of plants, flowers, trees, and lawns.

b. They redirect water from your roof to your lawn or garden

The average rainfall of one inch within a 24-hour period can produce more than 700 gallons of water that runs off the roof of a typical house. Much of this water runs from gutters onto surfaces that do not allow water to soak into the ground. These are called **impervious surfaces** and include concrete, asphalt, and compacted soil. Even commonly used sod has a very low infiltration rate and can be a major cause of increased runoff.

As it flows, runoff collects and transports soil, pet waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, litter and other pollutants. This water drains directly into nearby creeks, streams and rivers, without receiving treatment at sewage plants. Polluted stormwater contaminates local waterways. It can harm plants, fish and wildlife, while degrading the quality of water.