

RAIN BARRELS



DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY PLANNING
AND BUILDING

DID YOU KNOW

- On average, 40% of household water use in the summer months is for landscape irrigation.
- For every 25 mm of rain, a roof area of 100 sq m generates 2,500 litres of water.
- Harvesting rain reduces storm water runoff resulting in lower incidences of toxic discharge into rivers and the ocean.
- Rain barrels are an effective method of capturing and storing rainwater from your roof.
- Rain barrels are designed to catch the water from roof gutters at the downspout before it enters the ground.
- The rain is collected for watering gardens during peak summer months or when there is little precipitation.
- Rainwater is healthier for gardens because it lacks the chemicals used to treat drinking water.
- Rain barrels should be covered with screening to keep mosquitoes out.
- Water from rain barrels should not be used for drinking water.

RAIN BARREL OPTIONS

There are several rain barrel options available on the market. Some things to consider when choosing a rain barrel:

- **How much water do you expect to collect?** You may want a larger barrel if you have a big garden.
- **Where is the barrel needed most?** Choose an area under a downspout that's close to where you'll be watering.
- **What's the style of your home and garden?** Hardware stores may offer decorative rain barrels, but if you prefer function over form, standard drums should be available as well.
- **Do you have adequate space?** For small gardens and side yards, consider buying a flat-backed barrel that fits snugly against the home.
- **Do you plan to water the garden by hoses connected to the barrel, or by filling a water can?** If you plan to use hoses connect to the barrel, ensure the barrel is elevated enough to allow the water to flow where it needs to go.

RAIN BARREL INSTALLATION TIPS

Stable, Level Ground

The barrel or platform to elevate the barrel should rest on stable, level ground. If installing on the ground rather than a concrete patio, dig the area to a depth of 3 to 5 cm and fill with gravel, sand or pavers to create a level surface.

Sturdy Platform

If you elevate your rain barrel, ensure that the structure used to raise the barrel is strong enough to hold the weight of the full barrel. One litre of water weighs one kilogram, so a standard rain barrel, when full, may weigh about 200 kg.

Rain Barrel Overflow

Expect the rain barrel to overflow. Direct the overflow away from the building foundation .



REBATE PROGRAM

The City of Parksville offers a rebate of up to \$50 for the purchase and installation of a rain barrel. This offer is for owners of existing residential buildings with a valid occupancy permit located within the city and connected to the City's water system. Contact the Administration Department for more information.



Photo Captions

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Information is for convenience only. Contact department staff to discuss current and applicable bylaws



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