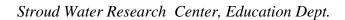
Reasons to Have a Rain Barrel at Home

Rain Barrels:

- Keep water out of storm and combined sewer systems
- Protect our rivers, lakes, and streams from runoff pollution
- Control moisture levels around foundation of home
- Provide oxygenated, un-chlorinated water, ideal for plants
- Direct overflow to where you want it
- Reduce water and wastewater bills
- Conserve water in the summer months, when demand is the highest

Rain Barrel Installation and Maintenance Checklist

The Overflow from the barrel must be directed into a landscap area at least 4 feet away from the foundation. Don't allow the overflow and saturate the ground around your home's for an adjustable diverter or an overflow pipe	water to
The barrel must be placed on a flat and level surface. 50 gallons of water weighs 400 pounds and you don't want it to tip over.	
Consider raising your barrel about two feet off the ground in order to enhance gravity flow into a hose and get good drainage. Cinder or landscaping blocks provide a good base. Remember, the higher you place your barrel, the more water pressure you get from your hose but use caution balancing height with stability. Barrels larger that 60 gallons should not be raised on any small pedestal.	Down spout Inlet with a screen Overflow Raised base
Place your rain barrel on a surface that is pervious, like mulch or gravel. Otherwise, water could pool on paved areas and become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.	
Clean gutters on a regular basis.	
Empty your rain barrel ideally within a week after a rain event tuse for the next rain event. I eave the tap open if you won't be	•



Winter Care

Empty buckets, watering cans, rain barrels. Emptying reduces freezing damage, prevents the accumulation of debris and allows for any needed repairs or refurbishing.	
Disconnect downspouts and redirect. Place barrel on its side and flush debris out with garden hose. You can reconnect the barrel if you have a diverter to redirect the flow back into the downspout. If your barrel is designed for winter weather (In southeastern PA) to allow for expansion in case water collects, you can leave it standing, but keep the spigot open.	
Put away hoses and sprinklers. Drain completely. Check for cracks or other damage. Store in a location where they will not be subject to physical damage or cover with a tarp.	

Caution

- Never allow children to play or climb on rain barrels!
- Rain Barrels are not to be used for pet or human drinking water.
- Do not use if your house has asbestos roofing shingles. If you are concerned about water quality for use in a pond or edible garden, release "first flush" of water from bottom of barrel into lawn/garden area. You can then use the remainder of water as you wish.