

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.