

Contact Us!

If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive our newsletter please get on our website:

<http://www.senecaswcd.com>

Or e-mail the SWCD Wildlife Specialist your email address at dvent@senecaswcd.com

Also if you have any other questions, concerns, or comments please do not hesitate to ask or let us know!



Where can I get one?

Rain Barrels can be had at almost any hardware store, or purchased via the web. A more cost savvy way is to build one yourself. The hardest part about this approach is finding a food-grade barrel to use, all other parts can be found at your local hardware store.

For a complete list of parts and instructions on how to build one for yourself please contact the Seneca Soil and Water Conservation District.



Seneca Soil and Water
Conservation District

SENECA SOIL AND WATER

3140 S. State Route 100, Suite D
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Seneca Soil and Water Conservation District



Rain Barrels

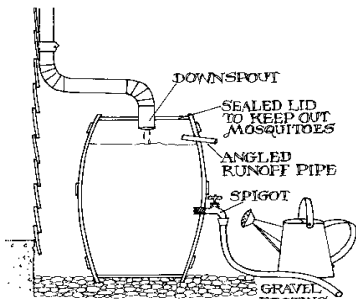
<http://www.senecaswcd.com>

What is a Rain Barrel?

Rain Barrels are small rainwater harvesting systems designed to collect water from rooftops for landscape and gardening purposes.

Water collected in a rain barrel would normally pour off your roof directly or flow through the roof gutter downspouts and become stormwater runoff.

Stormwater runoff is a problem because stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system, stream, river, and wetland. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for fishing, drinking, and recreation.



Tips and Wisdom

Like everything else rain barrels need proper care and maintenance to sustain proper functioning condition.

Management of Heavy Rain Storms:

Rain barrels can fill VERY quickly in a storm; as little as 3/10ths of rain can fill a 55gal barrel in one rain period! Direct overflow away from your buildings foundation using a hose at least 4 feet in length or redirect it into your existing downspout system

Winterizing Rain Barrels:

Disconnect downspouts before the first hard freeze and return downspouts to their original configuration. Next, drain your rain barrel to prevent freezing and cracking.

Mosquitoes

The best and most natural way to control mosquitoes is by creating an oil slick. Use 2 Tablespoons of vegetable or olive oil and pour into the barrel. This acts as a shield for insects getting into your barrels and laying their eggs plus if any eggs do survive they will soon die once they begin to develop into the larvae stage.

Chemical Larvicides- Granular forms are most likely to be available at your local hardware or garden store and should be added as per the directions at times when mosquito activity is at its peak.

Maintenance:

Rain barrels operate pretty much trouble free. However, periodic checks throughout the season will ensure success – hoses can be inadvertently moved out of place during regular yard maintenance, loosening attachments. Check that lids and hoses are properly placed and attached, that hardware is functioning properly, that no yard pests have found an entrance into the barrels, and that water is being dispersed in expected locations.

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