

## Facts About Rain Barrels

Rain Barrels are a system for capturing and storing rain water. These systems usually consist of a barrel or multiple barrels attached in a series. They usually capture rain water from a roof line gutter system with a diverter to direct a portion of the rain into the barrel while removing overflow and non-diverted rain safely away from the house. The design of your system will depend upon your needs. The more water you need, the more barrels you will need.

There are several uses for this captured water.

- Water garden and flower bed with a hose or watering can
- Attach a drip hose to water a garden or flower bed with the turn of a valve
- Water house plants
- Wetting down compost piles
- Wash mud off of boots and tools
- Wash the car—rain water is soft so you use less detergent
- Emergency water for flushing toilets

**\*Never use rain water for drinking or cooking**

After making your selection, there are some basic things to remember.

- ◆ Make sure you cover any opening in the barrel with a fine screen or top—standing water is where mosquitoes breed
- ◆ Overflow from the barrel should be directed away from your home's foundation
- ◆ Rain barrels are a low cost way to reduce runoff, reduce household water usage, and save you money!
- ◆ A rain barrel can save most homeowners about 1,300 gallons of water a month, depending on rainfall. This helps conserve good clean water for drinking and helps offset ground water demands.



Collecting rainwater for your garden is a smart idea. Plants like rainwater because it's naturally soft and free of chlorine and other chemicals. If drought is a problem where you live, collecting rainwater is a good way to deal with watering restrictions.

## How They Work

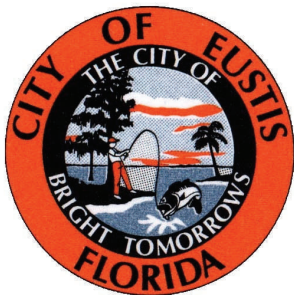


A popular British downspout diverter-known for its convenience and trim appearance-has been adapted to fit American downspouts.

The costs associated with the rain barrel system will depend upon your demands. The more water you need, the more barrels you will need. Barrels range in price depending upon styles and sizes. They can cost from \$90 to as much as \$300 each. The more storage capacity you have, the more you will off-set your demand on tap water. This will in turn reduce your water bill.

Rain Barrels may be purchased locally at these locations:

- ⇒ Bronson's Ace Hardware - 357-2366
- ⇒ Lowe's Home Improvement
- ⇒ Home Depot
- ⇒ Gardener's Supply Company - <http://www.gardeners.com> or by calling (888) 833-1412



Conserve Water

Make Every Drop Count

For more information on water conservation services provided by the City of Eustis Utilities and rain barrel/rain water harvesting, please contact the City of Eustis Water Department at 357-5618 or log on at [www.eustis.org/launch/water.htm](http://www.eustis.org/launch/water.htm)