

## GENERAL RAIN BARREL TIPS:

Make sure your barrel is installed on a solid and level base when in use. Full barrels can weigh 400 pounds or more.

Water from a rain barrel is not potable, and should only be used for irrigation purposes. When irrigating a vegetable garden from a rain barrel, direct the water to the soil, not to the foliage of plants, and insure the produce from the garden is washed thoroughly before being consumed.

If you have a transparent or translucent barrel, you may want to clean it periodically to remove algae buildup. Alternatively, paint the barrel to block light.

Always keep your rain barrels covered to prevent children, pets and vermin from falling in, and to keep your rain barrel from becoming a mosquito breeding site.

When in use, arrange the overflow downspout so that it drains away from your structure's foundation.

## RAIN BARREL WINTER MAINTENANCE:

In order to maintain your rain barrels over many growing seasons, it is important to take a few maintenance steps prior to winter to keep your barrels functioning properly.

Drain your rain barrel before the first hard frost or freeze. Repeated freezing and thawing of water in your rain barrel throughout the winter can weaken the material and cause cracks resulting in leakage.

If you have an above-ground hose such as a water hose or soaker hose connected to your rain barrel, also remove the hose and drain the water from it before storing.

Store your rain barrels upside-down to keep them clean when not in use.

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