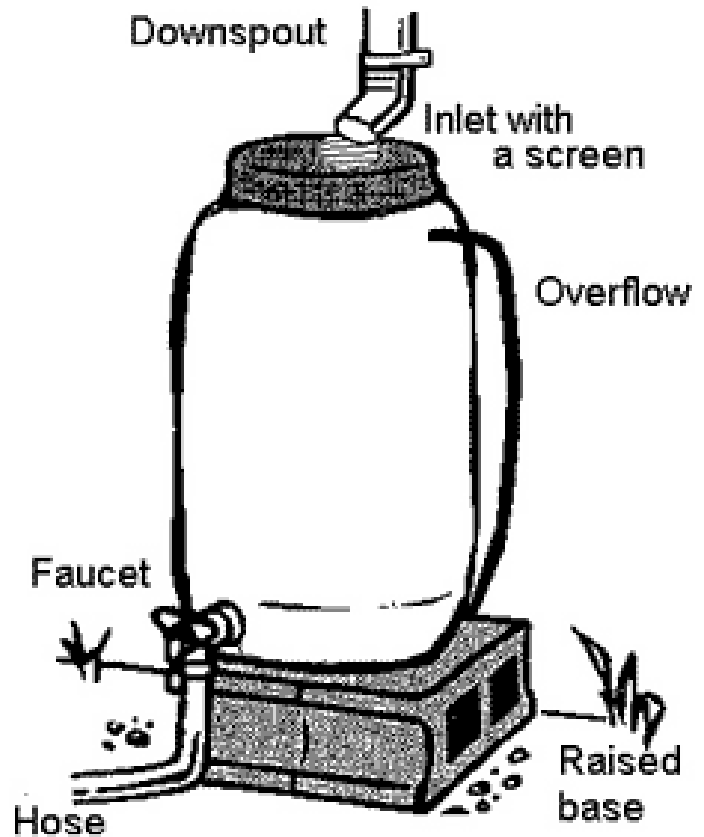


# Rain Barrel Installation Instructions



1. Select a site close to where you will be using the rain water and under or adjacent to your downspout.
2. Remove your down spout and set it a side for later. Be aware of overhead electrical lines in the area.
3. Prepare your base. Make sure that it is level from side to side and front to back. Your base will need to be solid and able to support several hundred pounds. A full rain barrel (55 gallon) will weigh over 400 lbs!
4. Your base will need to be tall enough for you to place a bucket or watering pail under the spout. You can attach a short length of hose to the spout and fill the bucket with it. If you place your rain barrel on the ground you may not be able to completely drain the barrel without moving it. Common base materials are cement blocks, bricks and landscape blocks. Some rain barrel users have built pads using retaining wall blocks to form the outer edge of the pad and then backfilling the pad area with packed gravel.
5. Place your rain barrel on to your base.
6. Measure up from the original ground level to the top of the rain barrel.
7. Transfer this measurement to the length of downspout that you removed earlier. You will need to remove this amount from the straight length of down spout. Once you have removed this piece reattach the down spout to the house. (You may wish to put it away so that you can reattach it in the fall when you take your rain barrel down for the season.)
8. Now is the time to adjust your barrel so that the spout will pour the water out on to the screened opening and that the faucet faces away from the house. Once the barrel has water in it, it will become very difficult to move with out draining.
9. Place your over flow hose so that any excess water is drained away from the house.
10. A helpful video produced by the City of Minneapolis is available on the web at



<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=2485703035515102658>

11. Remember this water is not to be used for drinking or bathing and should only be used for watering plants.

How soon will your barrel fill up? It depends upon the amount of roof area and the amount of rain. Typically 100 sq ft of roof surface can produce over 50 gallons of water from a 1 inch rain fall. The sooner you install your barrel the sooner you will be able to harvest some rain water.