

# Rain Barrels

Rain Barrels help conserve water and make it possible to use water in locations where it may be unavailable. One inch of rainfall = 0.6 gallons of water per square foot – a 20' x 20' roof will catch 240 gallons of water in a 1" rain.



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF  
soil and water conservation  
DISTRICTS

## Things to keep in mind:

- Water collected in a rain barrel is probably not potable.
- Protect the water from mosquitoes – keep the barrel sealed or cover openings with screen.
- Clean rain gutters so leaves and other materials don't go into the rain barrel.
- Algae can form in the barrel – paint or cover it or use an opaque barrel.
- Overflow water must have a way to drain off.
- There must be a way to get water out of the barrel – either by dipping from the top, or with a faucet at the bottom. A metal faucet can be installed in a plastic barrel by screwing it into a drilled hole.
- The barrel and plumbing should be emptied and disconnected before the first freeze in the fall.
- Rain barrel connection kits are available at many hardware stores, or you can make your own.
- Barrels can be purchased or sometimes can be obtained from businesses that handle large quantities of liquids for food processing or cleaning.
- Do not use barrels that have contained petroleum products, herbicides, or pesticides.

**Tools:** Drill, Spade drill bits, hole saw, saw, utility knife, screwdriver

**Parts:** Depends on your setup – here are the parts used in setting up the 4 barrel Courthouse system –

|                             |           |   |          |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---|----------|
| 1/2" galv. nipples and tees | - 4       | 1/2" PVC male adapter                                   | - 4      |
| 1/2" galv. cap              | - 1       | 1/2" PVC pipe (standpipe)                               | - 8 feet |
| 3/4" ID vinyl tubing        | - 10 feet | DIY Rain Barrel Diverter Kit – (Available at Gillman's) |          |
| 1-1/2" hose clamps          | - 8       | Caulk \ Teflon pipe tape                                |          |
| Faucet - 3/4" Hose Bibb     | - 1       |   |          |

Here are some rain barrels that are saving water right now. You can see the 4 barrel setup behind the access ramp at the north entrance to the Fayette County Courthouse.



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Many thanks to sponsor  
**Gillman's Home Center**  
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