Rain Barrels in Colorado

Collecting & Using Rainwater

According to State Law, HB16-1005

How can I collect rainwater?

Rain Barrel
1. Sealable lid
2. Located above ground outside a residential home
3. Used for collecting rain water from a downspout of a rooftop
4. Only allowed 2 rain barrels, collecting a total of 110 gallons

Where can I collect rainwater?

Single-family residence
- Private residence that is a separate building
- Individual residence that is part of a row of residences joined by common sidewalls
- 110 gallons per residence

Multifamily residence with fewer than four units
- Apartments/Condos
- Four units or fewer
- 110 gallons per building

How can I use rainwater?
- Outdoor purposes (i.e. irrigation of lawn and gardens)
- Used on the property it is collected
- Cannot be used for human consumption or indoor household purposes

Information provided by:

Colorado State University

One Water Solutions Institute

Colorado Stormwater Center
1. Site Selection

- Location of garden/plants
- Water distribution (bucket/hose)
- Downspout location
- Roof area: 700 sq. ft to generate 110 gallons with the average 0.25 inches of rainfall

2. Components/Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. BARREL</th>
<th>2. DIVERTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prefabricated</td>
<td>Diverters treat the “first flush” of dirty water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIY—Food Container</td>
<td>Find DIY videos online</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. INLET

- Single or multiple holes
- Screened
- Downspout within 2-3 inches of inlet

**Information Provided by:**

[Logo: Colorado Stormwater Center]  [Logo: Colorado State University]  [Logo: One Water Solutions Institute]
2. Components/Equipment (continued)

4. OVERFLOW

- Located at the top of the rain barrel
- Directs excess water away from the building
- Can be used to connect two barrels

5. SPIGOT

- Located at the bottom of the rain barrel
- Used to empty rain barrel
- Threaded is preferred
- Kits are available online or at home improvement stores

6. STAND

- Elevate rain barrel
  - Allow for bucket or watering can to be filled
  - Generate faster discharge through a hose
- Examples
  - Concrete blocks
  - Wood
  - Bricks
Rain Barrels in Colorado

Rain Barrel Operation & Maintenance

Rain Barrel Use

- Best to use within seven days
- Empty, clean and dry once every 30 days
- Disconnect rain barrel if leaving home for extended period of time

Mosquitos

- Mosquitos live in water for three to seven days (typically)
- Mosquito “dunks” available at hardware stores
  ⇒ Use natural bacteria, safe for plants
- Mosquitos require oxygen
  ⇒ Several tablespoons of vegetable oil will create a barrier at water surface

Algae Build-up

- Frequent use of water should prevent algae build-up
- If rain barrel is translucent, paint it dark, opaque
- Remove algae with diluted (2%) bleach solution
  ⇒ Discharge bleach solution to sewer (inside), not onto plants

Winterization

- Use rain barrels March-October
- Frozen water may damage components
- Winterization
  ⇒ Empty and dry
  ⇒ Store indoors (preferably)
  ⇒ Add downspout extension to prevent erosion

Information provided by:

Colorado State University

One Water Solutions Institute