



Storm Biz

Tip of the Week

week 15: April 13, 2021

INSTALLING A RAIN BARREL

Whether you DIY a barrel or buy a kit, every rain barrel is a little different so make sure to follow the instructions that come with the product that you chose. That said, here's a general guide for installing a rain barrel.

1. Pick the location. The main thing to remember is that it has to be located within a few feet of a downspout. You can place it in your garden to make it more convenient to use or tuck it in an out of the way place in the back of your house.
2. Make sure you have a level, sturdy base. When rain barrels are full, they are extremely heavy. If the ground beneath it isn't stable and level, the whole thing can topple over. Putting down concrete pavers is a good idea to add stability, just make sure they're level.
3. You may want to elevate the barrel on a stand, depending on where the spigot is. Some of these barrels have a spigot all the way at the bottom which can be really inconvenient if you're trying to fill a bucket or watering can.
4. Determine the height of the rain barrel, accounting for a stand if you choose to use one. Lay a long level across the top of the barrel toward the downspout and mark the spot on the downspout at the level of the top of the barrel. Then, measure down three inches and make another mark.
5. Drill a hole into the downspout. Sometimes, the rain barrel includes hole saws to make this step easy but some don't so you may need to provide your own.
6. On the rain barrel, choose where to drill the hole for the other end of the drain pipe if you have this option. Pick a spot closest to the downspout.
7. Insert the diverter into the downspout and secure it with screws. Then, connect the diverter to the rain barrel using a flexible hose. This should be included. The hose should sit below the diverter but should not have too much slack.
8. Put on the lid and wait for rain.



REMEMBER

You shouldn't use rainwater for cooking for drinking unless your set up (roof, catching system, filtration system, barrel, etc.) is prepared for that use. Even then, you have to filter or purify the water.