

6 Easy Steps to Install your Rain Barrel

Installing your rain barrel is very easy and requires only a few common tools. You will need a screwdriver, a hacksaw, a tape measure, a carpenter's level, a shovel, and a rake.

1. Choose a Downspout

It is best to place your barrel under a downspout that is as close as possible to your garden and flower beds. Make sure the ground is relatively level.

2. Disconnect the Downspout

Disconnect the downspout so that you may place the rain barrel beneath it. Make sure you save the downspout, screws, and straps for reuse. You can also take this time to clean debris out of your eavestrough.

3. Level the Ground

Provide a solid, safe, and level platform for your barrel to sit on. You may use two standard concrete blocks or build a wooden base, but it's most important that the barrel is level. The barrel should also be above ground level, as this makes it easier to fill watering cans or drain your barrel.

4. Place your Barrel

With your barrel now placed level on the base, measure the amount of downspout needed to have rain water flow directly into the barrel. Use the elbow you removed from the bottom of the downspout to direct water to the centre of the barrel, which should be located 4" to 6" above the barrel. Keep this in mind when measuring.

5. Cut your Downspout

Remember... measure twice, cut once.

6. Reinstall the Shortened Downspout

Using the original screws, straps, and elbows, reinstall the shortened downspout. Remember, the elbow should be 4" to 6" above the rain barrel. You should now have a properly installed rain barrel, ready to use and enjoy!

Getting you Rain Barrel Ready for the Winter

To ensure that your rain barrel lasts for many years, it must be drained and disconnected in the fall before temperatures fall below freezing. Otherwise the rain barrel and overflow hose may crack. If necessary, your rain barrel could be left outdoors, but it must be drained and stored upside down, so that snow and ice cannot get inside. The brass hose fitting should be left open. If possible, store your rain barrel over the winter in a garage or storage shed. The overflow hose should be drained and stored indoors.

Reconnecting your Downspout

Once your rain barrel has been removed, you must reconnect your downspout. This will ensure that rain or melting ice or snow will not drain directly against the foundation of your house.

First, remove the elbow that was directing water into your rain barrel. Next, you must find and reuse the length of downspout that was cut off and removed when you first installed your rain barrel. Carefully crimp the lower end of downspout that is still in place and insert it into the top end of the other downspout, leaving 1.5" overlap. Secure with two self-tapping metal screws. Finally, reinstall the elbow at the bottom of this downspout and secure with screws.

If your rain barrel was raised on a base, you will likely have to move the base out of the way. If you had a length of horizontal downspout diverting water further away from your house before you installed your rain barrel, you should also reinstall it.

Be sure to check out these helpful videos on our YouTube channel:
How to Install a Rain Barrel and Winterizing your Rain Barrel with GreenUp



www.greenup.on.ca
705.745.3238
378 Aylmer Street N. Ptbo ON K9H 3V8

