

# Rain Barrel Installation

What to do with your rain barrel after you take it home...



We work with the people who work the land.

## Step 1: Pick a Diverter

Rainwater diverters come in many different shapes, sizes and materials. Purchase a diverter that works best for your location. Diverters can simply be a flexible piece of gutter or a complex device that filters as it diverts. Various rainwater diverters can be found on the internet. Check out the back of this flyer to see our recommendations.

## Step 2: Level & Elevate

Level the dirt under your downspout, add some sand if needed and place your rain barrel on the leveled ground. You can also elevate your rain barrel for increased water pressure, this is optional! You can construct a platform using bricks, cinder blocks, or treated wood. A platform can be a few inches tall to a couple of feet tall.

## Step 3: Cut & Install

Carefully measure and cut your downspout as directed by the instructions for the diverter you purchased. Be sure to keep any pieces of downspout you may remove, so you can reattach later if needed. Install your diverter based on the instructions that came with it, then set your rain barrel in place and start collecting!



*Elevating your rain barrel will increase your water pressure.*

## Usage & Maintenance Tips

- Regularly use your collected water to ensure there is more space for water after the next storm
- Place your rain barrel in a shaded location to prevent algae growth and overheating
- Keep the screen on your rain barrel to prevent mosquito habitat
- Remove debris from your gutter that may clog the rain barrel
- Before the first winter freeze, make sure to disconnect and drain the rain barrel
- Check the level of the water in your rain barrel before going on vacation to prevent overflow
- Attach a hose to the overflow to divert any excess rainwater away from your home
- The brass faucet has a tight handle. When opening faucet, turn the handle only about 3/4 to avoid handle sticking. If the faucet handle becomes tight, hold onto the valve body when moving the handle to prevent breaking of the seal against the rain barrel where attached.
- The faucet should not leak and will remain flexible with the application of *Gunk (Silicon Spray Lubricant)* at the beginning of the spring and end of fall.



## Diverter Options:

Diverter are needed to divert rain water from the downspout into your rain barrel.

## **A few of our favorite rainwater diverters are:**

### **Save The Rain Diverter**

- GreatAmericanRainBarrel.com

### **Oatey Mystic Rainwater Collection System**

- HomeDepot.com
- Walmart.com
- Amazon.com

### **Earth Minded Flexfit Downspout Diverter**

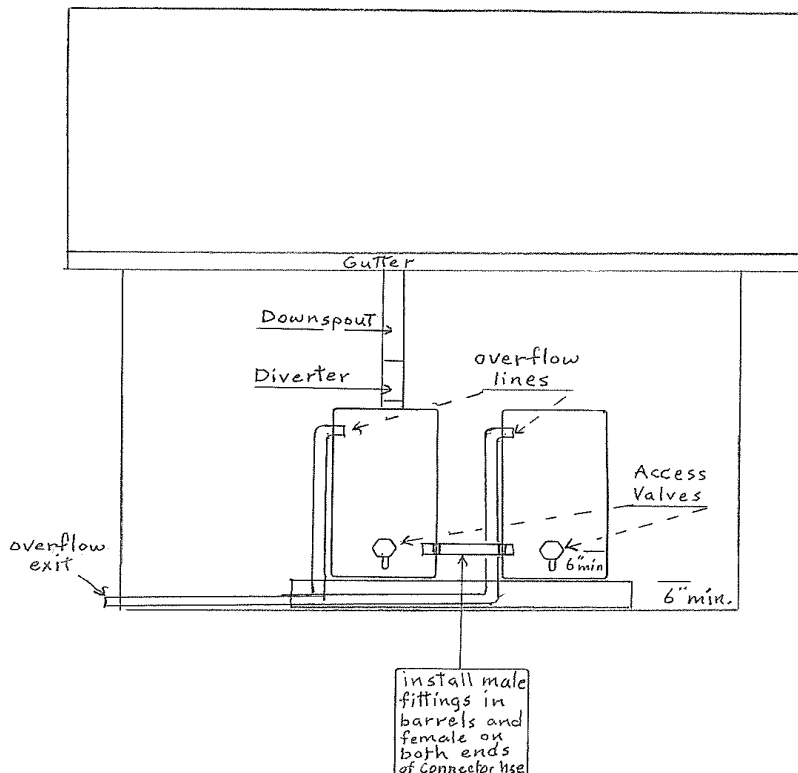
- RainBarrelParts.com

### **Amerimax Flex Elbow**

- Lowes.com
- HomeDepot.com

## How to Connect a New Barrel to an Existing Barrel:

To connect the barrels a hole must be drilled at least 6" from the bottom of each barrel. Use male fittings in each barrel and female fittings on the ends of the connecting tubing.



Visit our website to see connection photographs taken when we originally put together this system right outside our office!

**Have two new barrels that you would like to connect?**

Check out our website for more information .

**For more information or questions contact us!**

Phone: 540-433-2853 ext.3

E-mail: [svswcd@gmail.com](mailto:svswcd@gmail.com)

[svswcd.org](http://svswcd.org)