

How To Install A Rain Barrel



- Use the following as a guide.

Let's get started

1. **Determine the best place for a rain barrel.**
 - Look for places where downspouts lead to hardscape areas and where overflow can be diverted from foundations and used on a garden area.
2. **Raise the rain barrel approximately 12 - 15".**
 - Cinderblocks and 18" square pavers work very well as a strong and sturdy base.
 - Use a level to prepare the ground and to align the bottom paver. This will ensure the base for the barrel is stable.



- From the bottom, lay down one paver, place two cinder blocks (on their sides and beside each other) on top and the second paver on top of the cinder blocks, creating a "sandwich" base for your barrel.
3. **Place the rain barrel on top of the base.**

You'll need the following:

- Tin snips
- Drill
- Hacksaw
- Needle-nose pliers
- Two 18" square pavers or 4 cinderblock toppers
- Sheet metal screws and anchors
- Earthquake straps
- Downspout elbow(s)
- Downspout bracket(s)
- Leaf guard for gutter (optional)
- Garden hose (optional)
- Level
- Screw driver
- Tape measure
- Safety glasses
- 2 cinderblocks

Use the [How To Maintain A Rain Barrel checklist](#) before installation to ensure gutters and downspouts are ready for rain water harvesting.

4. **Decide how to best reconfigure the downspout.**
 - It will likely need to be shortened and have pieces/elbows added.
 - Mark the downspout.



5. Cut the downspout at the mark using a hacksaw.

- Remove the cut piece.



6. Attach the elbow(s) over downspout.

- Use needle-nose pliers to crimp the ends of the cut downspout and slide it inside the elbow.
- Attach the elbow to the downspout with screws, or for added stability, consider securing the elbow to the building with a bracket.



7. Do a test run.

- Use a water hose to run water through gutters and into the rain barrel. Make any needed changes.
- If leaf litter is present in gutters, clean out and add a leaf guard.

8. Secure the rain barrel with metal/all-weather earthquake straps.

- Use anchors and screws to secure to the side of house/building.



MAKE IT COUNT!

- After installing your rain barrel, learn about the environmental benefits your barrel provides.
- Go to www.treemapla.org to plot your rain barrel on the map.