

Set –up Instructions for Upcycle Products Brand Rain Barrel

Source: www.upcycle-products.com

Choose a spot for your barrel where you can either tap into or modify a downspout to fill your barrel. There are several rain water diverters on the market that are easily installed into your downspout. Remember the intent of the downspout is to direct water away from the basement and foundation of your home. **DO NOT** redirect water back to the base of the home from the overflow fitting. Connect a hose and direct the water away from the house.



Choose a spot for your barrel and place concrete blocks or similar sturdy material to raise your barrel up approximately a foot above the surrounding ground. This will allow easy access to the spigot with a watering can or bucket. Additionally the elevated barrel will ensure your hose, if used, will flow properly to your flowers. Remember that water seeks its own level. In other words if the end of your hose is higher than the spigot, then the water will not flow out. The concrete blocks will make your barrel a little sturdier also.

If you purchased or want to purchase multiple barrels you can connect the two barrels together from the one barrel's overflow fitting to the spigot of the other. Make sure to open the spigot on the receiving barrel. When the barrel under the downspout becomes full it will overflow to the next and so on and so on. There is no limit to how many barrels may be connected together.

Winterizing your Barrel

You do not need to remove the fittings for winter. We use plastic fittings because brass and steel do not interface well with plastic barrels. These items expand and contract at a different rate, which is the major cause of other manufacturer's barrels leaking in a short period of time. The only thing you need to do to prepare for the winter season is to drain all the water out of them, remove any hoses, open the spigot and remove the cap from the linking fitting. You can leave them standing all winter. Enough water will remain in them to keep them from being blown over and if they do freeze you will end up with a bird bath size ice cube which will not damage your rain barrel.

For more information:

Visit www.upcycle-products.com or contact the Macon County Environmental Management Department at 217/425-4505.