

*Environmentally-Friendly*

*Rain Barrels*

*Conserve Water*

*"one drop at a time!"*

By capturing rainwater from your roof's downspout you can help slow down and control the runoff which drains into our lakes, streams and waterbodies. Rain barrels allow rainwater to gradually filter into the soil, giving plants a slow release of minerals and nutrients while replenishing groundwater reserves.

*Environmental Benefits:*

- Collected rainwater is not chlorinated, is mildly acidic and helps plants absorb important minerals.
- By using rain barrels you can save water for use during dry weather periods.
- 55-gallon storage capacity captures fresh, untreated, soft rainwater for your gardening needs, additional rain barrel storage or distant area.
- Reclaimed plastic barrels, once used for a food-grade products, are being used for an environmentally-friendly purpose (*barrels only sold in the color blue*).
- Help prevent rainwater from becoming polluted stormwater runoff, the biggest remaining threat to clean water in the United States, "one drop at a time!"

Washington County  
Planning & Parks Department  
Land & Water Conservation Division  
333 E. Washington St., Ste 3200  
West Bend, WI 53095-2003  
262.335.4800



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[www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd)





## Rain Barrel Site Evaluation:

When determining which downspout is best suited for your easy-to-install Rain Barrel and Diverter Kit consider the following:

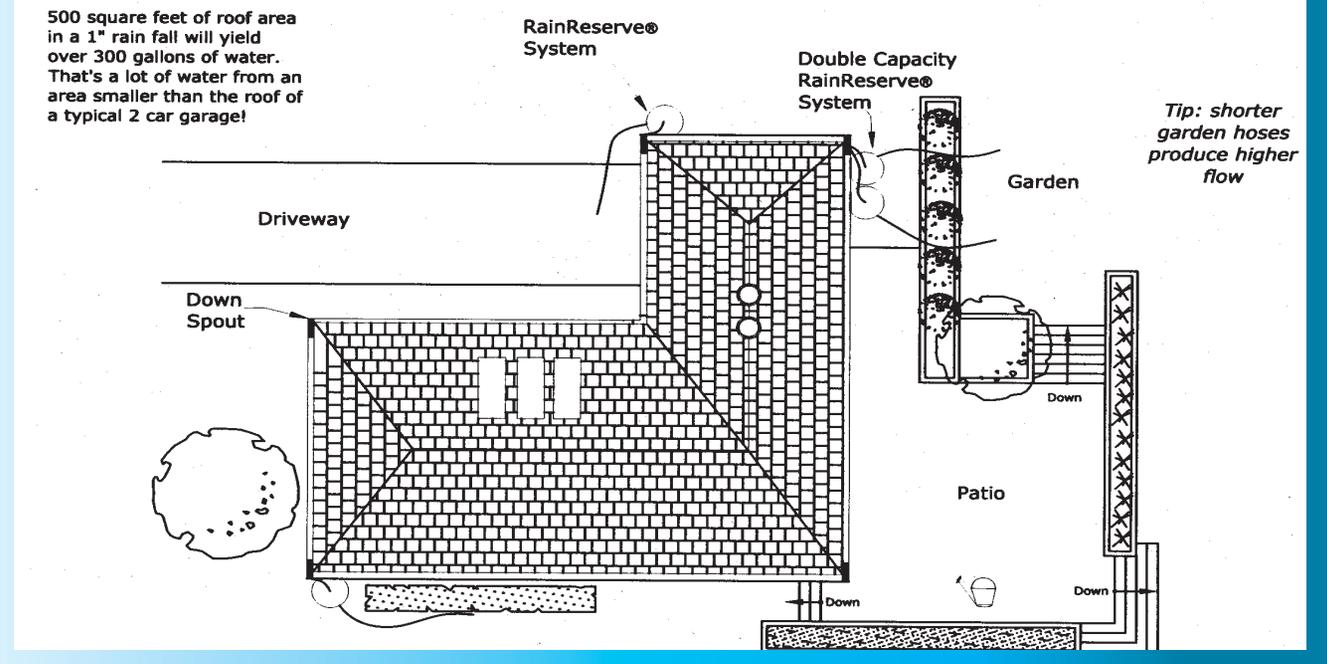
- ◆ Determine where water would be used most frequently and locate the nearest downspout.
- ◆ Ensure the elevation of the barrel is above the point of use, as system water pressure is created by gravity. A watering can or bucket can be filled easily from the barrel.
- ◆ Ensure barrel will not interfere with window casement when elevated on base.
- ◆ One standard 55 gallon barrel weighs nearly 450 pounds when filled with water. When setting up the system ensure barrels will be secure and the ground is level and solid. For optimal stability, place barrel on hard level surface. It is recommended to use 3 cinder blocks for base support of barrel.

**Safety warning:** A falling or tipped barrel could cause property damage, serious injury or even death.

- ◆ It is recommended that barrels should be positioned close enough to a downspout to prevent kinking of diverter connection tubing.

## Rain Barrel & Diverter Kit (fits 2"x3" downspout) – cost \$80.00

Installation & Assembly Required



### Barrel & Diverter Winterization:

- ◆ Prior to freezing temperatures, remove tubing from barrel and diverter. Empty and store barrel indoors or turn upside down so that barrel cannot fill with water. Place both diverter plugs on diverter outlets. Do not use excessive force. ***Under no circumstance should the barrel be allowed to freeze with water inside.***

*Note: Made in the U.S.A., diverter kits are designed with eco-friendly alternatives, corn plastic, recycled content, curb-side recyclables for use on 2"x3" gutters. If you have 3"x4" gutters or larger, an adapter is required. Contact the Land & Water Conservation Division for additional information. Diverter kits are designed with an optional diverter outlet to accommodate filling two rain barrels in parallel.*

### Needing Assistance with Directions on Installation & Setup/Winterization Tips:

Step-by-step installation directions are available online and found by visiting our website:

[www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd) - Click on Tree & Prairie Seed Program - Rain Barrels.

*Enjoy one of the simple pleasures of life, collecting Rain Water*

*"one drop at a time!"*

*Thank You!*

