

Rain Barrels: How to Build Your Own and How to Host a Workshop

Watershed Congress Along the Schuylkill River

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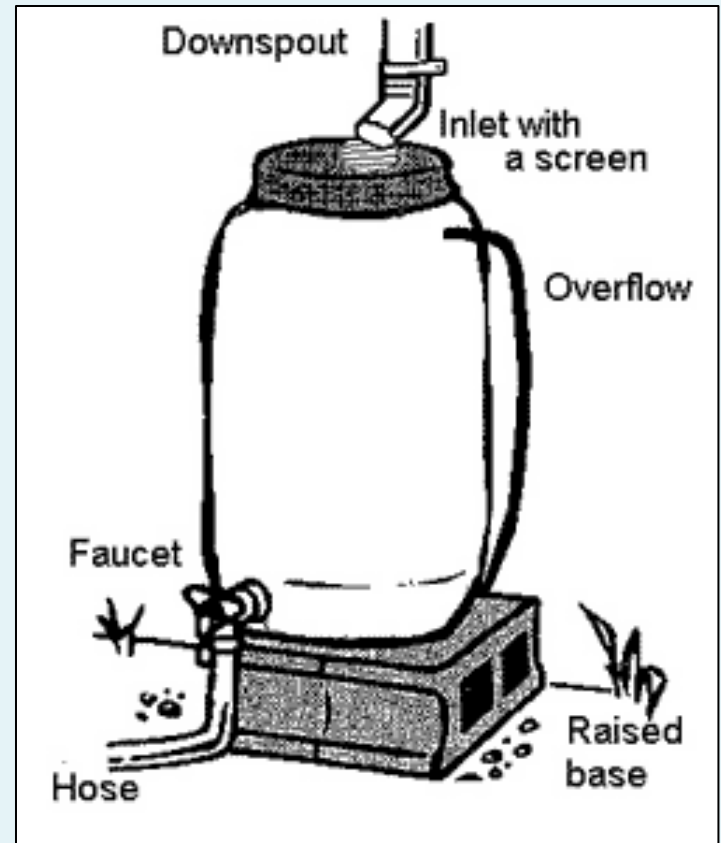
Celebrating 50 years 1964-2014

- A non-profit organization committed to protecting and restoring the natural resources of the Perkiomen Creek Watershed
- Award-winning education programs and restoration projects, encouraging members of the community to develop meaningful connections to their local environment



What is a Rain Barrel?

- Container that collects and stores rain water for outdoor use
- Benefits:
 - Save \$\$\$
 - Reduce flooding
 - Conserve water
 - Use 'soft' water for plants
 - **Manage stormwater!**



Making Your Own Rain Barrel: Gathering Supplies

Recycled Parts:

Food-grade Barrel (55 gallons)

Ours were donated by a Coca-Cola Plant



Window Screening

(Mosquito prevention for inflow)



Lowe's

(or other home improvement store)

Inflow:

3" to 4" PVC Converter
(\$2.58)



4-5" Hose Clamp
(\$1.94 for one or \$1.75 each in 6ct bag)



Outflow:

3/4" Hose Bib (male-threaded)
(\$5.33)



Lowe's (or other home improvement store)

Overflow:

**1 ½ - 1 ¼" Hose Adapter
(\$1.49)**



**1 ¼" Overflow Hose, 6 feet long
("Universal Sump Drainkit")
24 feet of hose = 4 overflow hoses
\$10.48 / 4 = \$2.67**



AtlantaRainBarrels.com

Outflow:

**$\frac{3}{4}$ " Bulkhead Fitting
(\$4.75)**



Overflow:

**$1 \frac{1}{2}$ " Bulkhead Fitting
(\$7.00)**

*****M.V.P! (Most Valuable Part)**



Supply Totals:

- 9 parts to make a rain barrel
- TOTAL COST of only **\$25.57!!**

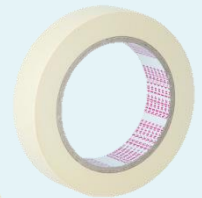
(+ shipping for bulkhead fittings)

– Rain barrels often cost **\$100 to \$300** in stores!



Necessary Tools

- Corded Drill
- 3 bits
- Screwdriver
- Ruler
- Tape
- Plumbers Thread (optional)



Drill Bits



4" Hole Saw
(Inflow)



3" Hole Saw
(Overflow)



1 ½" Paddle Saw
(Outflow)

Drilling Holes in Your Barrel

- Inflow (Top of barrel towards the back)
- Overflow (Pick your side, 4" from top)
- Outflow (2" from bottom, front)



Paint Your Barrel

- Prevents algae growth
- Blend it in with landscaping/house or make it beautiful and fun!



Demonstration: Assembling Your Rain Barrel

Installing Your Rain Barrel

1. Place your barrel beneath a downspout on a surface that is:

- Level (seriously, get out a level)
- Sturdy (55 gallons weighs 460 pounds!)
- Raised (to build pressure in your hose)

Cinder blocks work great!



Installing Your Rain Barrel

2. Attach barrel to downspout

Trim downspout or purchase an adapter

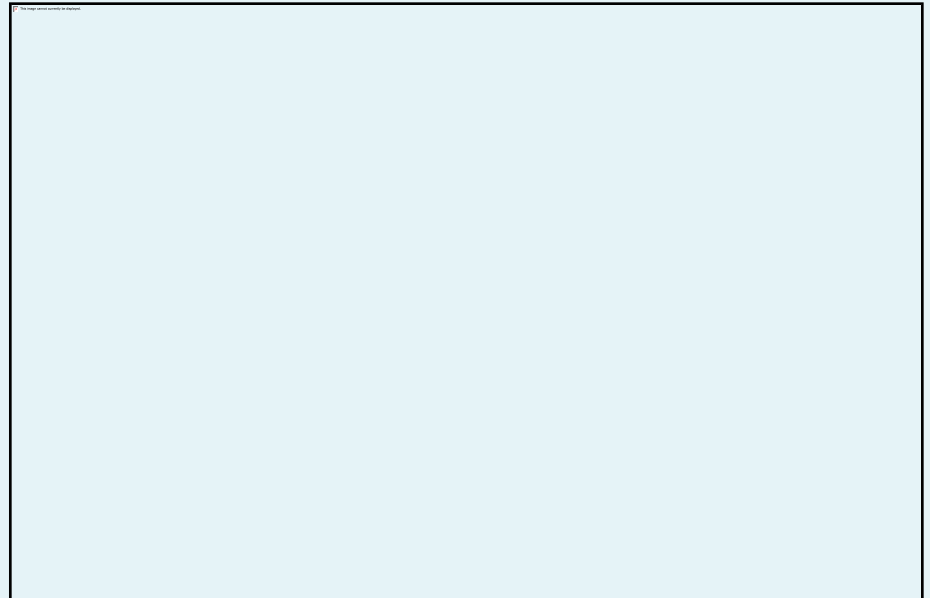


Installing Your Rain Barrel

3. Direct overflow tube away from your house
Maybe to a rain garden!



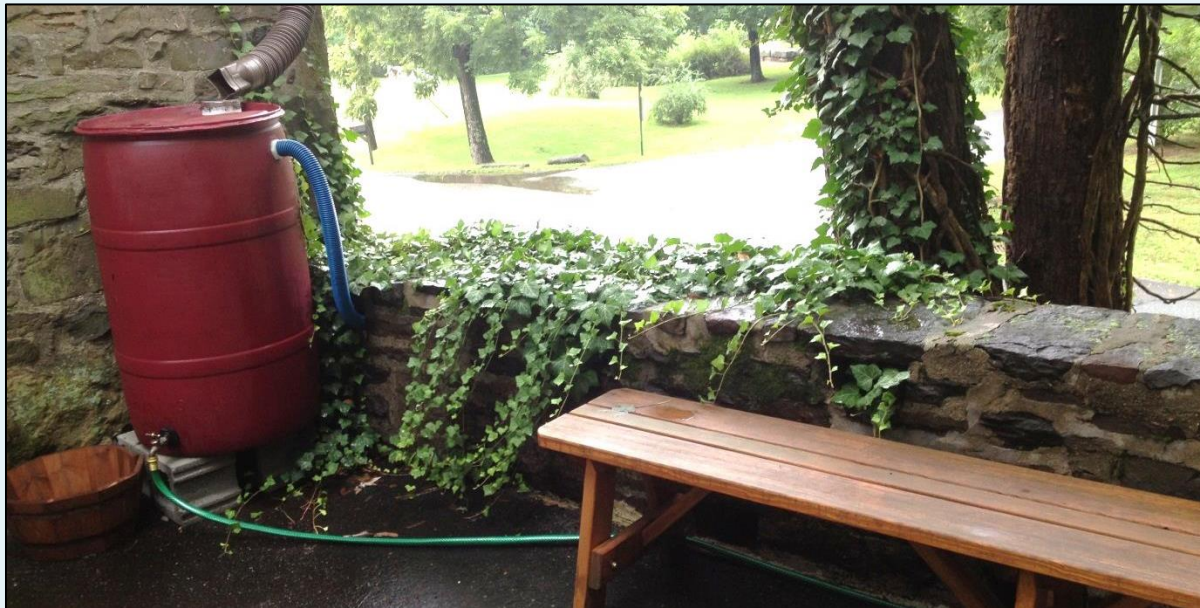
<http://www.jensign.com/science/fluidmechanics/rainbarrel/index.html>



<http://runoffinfo.uwex.edu/assistance.html>

Tips for Using Your Barrel

- Hook up garden or soaker hose to hose bib, or fill up watering cans
- Clean barrels with a little bleach or vinegar and water
- Mosquito donut if you get mosquitos



Hosting Your Own Rain Barrel Building Workshop

- Reach many residents at once
- Educational opportunity
- Potential fundraiser



Locate Supplies

- Where can you get them?
- What is the cost?
- We recommend asking food companies/
distributors for barrels
 - Develop a relationship
 - Have a reliable source



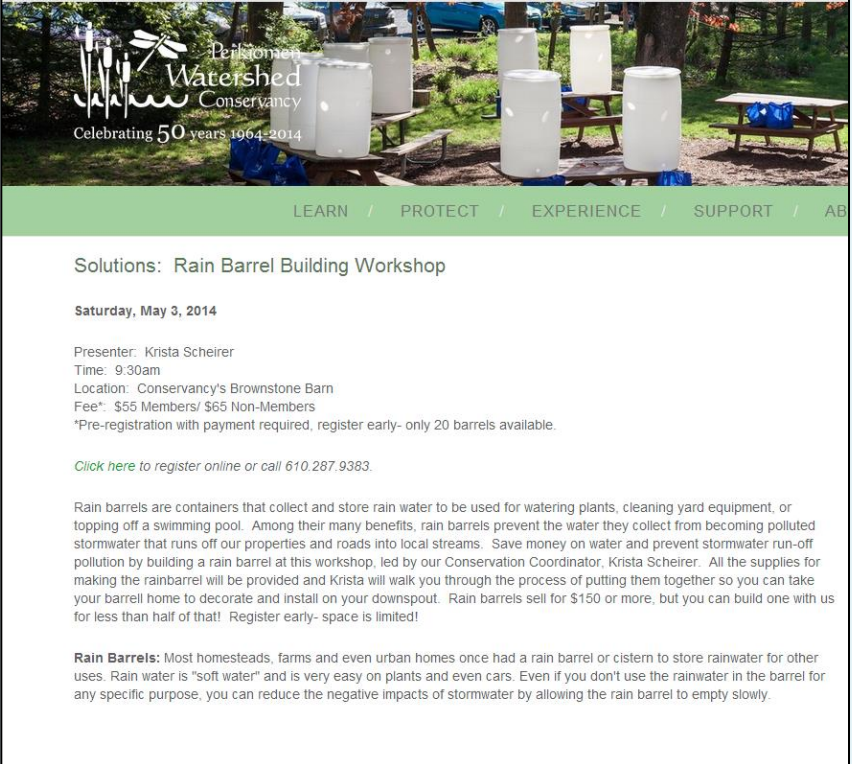
Determine the Size of Your Workshop

- We recommend 20 barrels
 - More than one person/ barrel will attend
- Determine the price for participation
 - Grants subsidizing program?
 - Do you need to cover salary time?
 - Make a profit?



Create Event Registration

- Have people pay ahead of time.
- Online registration is great!
- Think about a policy for people who would like a barrel but cannot attend the workshop.



The screenshot shows a website page for a workshop. At the top is a banner image of several white rain barrels in a wooded area. The banner includes the logo for 'Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy' and the text 'Celebrating 50 years 1964-2014'. Below the banner is a green navigation bar with the text 'LEARN / PROTECT / EXPERIENCE / SUPPORT / AB'. The main content area has the following text:

Solutions: Rain Barrel Building Workshop

Saturday, May 3, 2014

Presenter: Krista Scheirer
Time: 9:30am
Location: Conservancy's Brownstone Barn
Fee*: \$55 Members/ \$65 Non-Members
*Pre-registration with payment required, register early- only 20 barrels available.

[Click here to register online or call 610.287.9383.](#)

Rain barrels are containers that collect and store rain water to be used for watering plants, cleaning yard equipment, or topping off a swimming pool. Among their many benefits, rain barrels prevent the water they collect from becoming polluted stormwater that runs off our properties and roads into local streams. Save money on water and prevent stormwater run-off pollution by building a rain barrel at this workshop, led by our Conservation Coordinator, Krista Scheirer. All the supplies for making the rainbarrel will be provided and Krista will walk you through the process of putting them together so you can take your barrel home to decorate and install on your downspout. Rain barrels sell for \$150 or more, but you can build one with us for less than half of that! Register early- space is limited!

Rain Barrels: Most homesteads, farms and even urban homes once had a rain barrel or cistern to store rainwater for other uses. Rain water is "soft water" and is very easy on plants and even cars. Even if you don't use the rainwater in the barrel for any specific purpose, you can reduce the negative impacts of stormwater by allowing the rain barrel to empty slowly.

Advertise Your Workshop

- Press releases
- Online postings
- E-mails
- Sell your event!



1 Skippack Pike
Schwenksville, PA 19473
610-287-9383

Rain Barrel Building Workshop!

Saturday May 3, at 9:30 am

Rain barrels are containers that collect and store rain water to be used for watering plants, cleaning yard equipment, or topping off a swimming pool.

Benefits:

- Prevents rain water from becoming polluted runoff.
- Saves money spent on outdoor water use.
- Reduces flooding and conserves water for use during drought.



Build your own barrel to take home and install for half the price of ready-built barrels!

Barrels are limited so save your space today!

Contact Krista at kscheirer@perkiomenwatershed.org

Or check out

PerkiomenWatershed.org

Prep for the Workshop

- Gather all supplies and extra tools
- Clean barrels
- Drill holes in the barrels
- Bag parts for each person
- Create handout with labeled photos of parts



Event Day!

- Have a place to build barrels with a lot of space; outside works well!
- Prepare a check-in site separate from the barrel-building site



Educate!

- Use this opportunity to educate the community on proper stormwater management



Tips for a Successful Workshop

- Supply screwdrivers, rulers and masking tape
- Scissors to cut window screening
- Do not use glue of any kind.
- Have a partner to help run the workshop!



Tips for a Successful Workshop

- Keep it short and to the point (no longer than 1.5 hours)
- Show participants how to hook up their barrel to a downspout
- Have an example on-site
- Show them different options



Questions?

DO NOT DRINK

**This water has been
sustainably harvested
from our roof.**

