

Rain Barrels: Old school way to save water

Why use a rain barrel?

One 50-gallon rain barrel can save as much as 1,000 gallons over the summer. Rain barrels can reduce peak demand for water during the summer months. Rain barrels provide you with soft, chlorine-free water for your plants. You can purchase rain barrels at hardware and garden centers, or build your own.



How to build a rain barrel?

Rain barrel workshops are offered in Bloomington-Normal area (April 24) and Springfield (May 20). Plans for an easy to build rain barrel is offered by UI Extension. Upgrade to this wood-enclosed rain barrel (right). Building instructions are available from ***This Old House*** website.



Rebates available

In some communities, rain barrels are sold at a discount or rebates are provided. In Macon County, rain barrels are available from County Environmental Management. Rebates are available in Champaign and Springfield.

Read More

Sandy Mason, Extension Educator, Horticulture “Harvest Rain with Rain Barrels”.
USEPA Water Sense, Outdoor water use.