

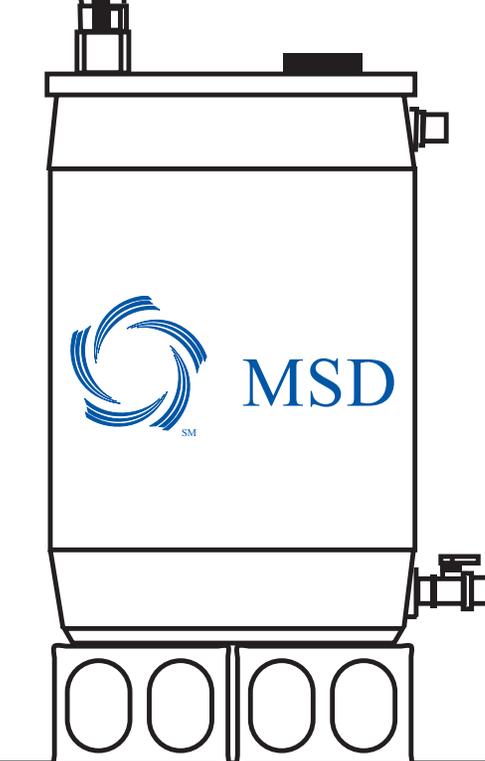


#### V. Miscellaneous

If you don't like the color of your rain barrel, Krylon Fusion™ is available at most craft stores. It is chip resistant and is available in a variety of colors.

Depending on the market, rain barrels cost anywhere from \$75 to \$250. There are many websites available with additional information about rain barrels.

# HOMEOWNER'S MAINTENANCE AND INSTALLATION GUIDE FOR RAIN BARRELS



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## I. Introduction

The purpose of a rain barrel is to collect and store water from your rooftop and use it later for watering your garden or lawn. This Maintenance and Installation Manual is a reference guide for you to properly care for, maintain and install your product.

## II. Some product information

The rain barrels are manufactured by several different companies. They are all 58-gallon plastic barrels. 3 fittings exist on each barrel; a spigot/faucet at the bottom, (threaded for hook up to a garden hose), an 1 1/2" overflow opening at the top and 4" down spout adaptor. The screw cap on top provides access for clean out. (See Figure 1 for a detailed drawing identifying the rain barrel components.)

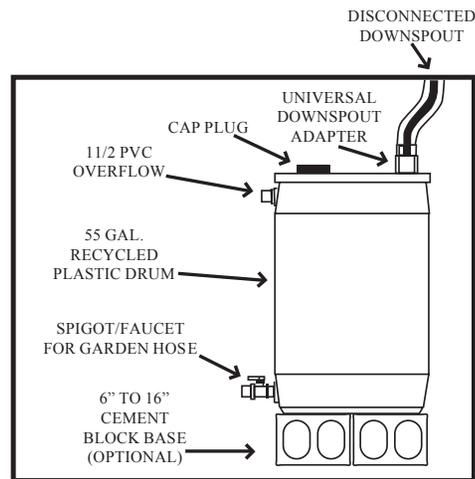


Figure 1. (Rain Barrel Components)

A full rain barrel weighs approximately 400 lbs. To ensure that the rain barrel doesn't tip over, it is important to place the barrel on top of a hard, level surface. (2 to 4 concrete blocks work well.) Be sure not to elevate the rain barrel to an unsafe level that might cause the barrel to tip over and could result in injury.

## III. Care and Cleaning

Once your rain barrel is installed, attach a garden hose to the bottom spigot. With the bottom faucet closed, rainwater from the roof will begin to collect in the rain barrel through the down spout. The top 1 1/2" opening is the over flow valve. It is suggested to attach a length of collapsible hose to the top overflow and direct the over-flow rain water away from the house foundation.



The spigot at the bottom is threaded to connect to an ordinary garden hose. The screw cap can be used to monitor water level in the barrel and for seasonal cleaning. Most home owners throw in a monthly mosquito "doughnut" to prevent any larvae from hatching. Collapsible hose and

mosquito prevention are available at most hardware or home improvement stores. Please read and follow the product's instructions carefully.

Watch the weather report and be sure that the barrel is empty in case of predicted heavy rain. Remember 300 square feet of roof area, (a quarter of the area of an average roof) with 1" of rain run off equals 260 gallons of water. The rain barrel holds 58 gallons and it doesn't take much of a rain event to fill quickly.

To clean out your rain barrel, drain your barrel of all collected rainwater. Move the barrel away from the house. Disconnect the barrel from the down spout, turn it upside down and shake out any debris.

During winter months, most owners choose to leave the bottom spigot valve fully open. While the barrel manufacturer claims the barrel will not crack from freezing, we recommend that the bottom valve remains open.

## IV. Installation

Hooking up the down spout to the rain barrel is fairly easy because it comes with the down spout connector inserted into the opening on top of the barrel.

If the down spout is metal then use a hand saw or shears appropriate for cutting metal. Some down spouts are plastic and may be purchased in adjustable lengths.

