

# How To Maintain A Rain Barrel



- During the summer months or right before you install your rain barrel, is a perfect time to go through this quick checklist. Any rainwater harvesting system starts with the rain gutters and downspouts. Keeping them clean and in good repair will ensure you can harvest every drop.
- Use the following as a checklist to maintain your new rain barrel.

## Rain Gutters and Downspouts

- Check for debris and clean out with broom or wet/dry vacuum.
- Adjust screens at downspouts and repair if necessary.
- If overhanging trees or greenery is clogging up the gutters, consider lightly pruning them back.
- Pour water into the gutter to check for any leaks. Repair if needed.
- Look for low spots or sagging areas where water may collect. Add extra supports and repair any rusty spots as needed.
- Check that downspouts are secure and reinforce with caulk and/or sheet metal screws. Clear any clogs in the downspouts.

## Rain Barrels

- Empty rain barrels completely. Use wet/dry vacuum or empty any water into the garden.
- If there is any build-up of organic matter, spray out with a hose.
- Check earthquake straps and footing to ensure they are secure.
- Repair any holes in the mosquito screen and/or replace filters as needed.
- Check for leaks in the barrel, valves and overflow to make sure they are working properly. Repair as needed.
- Inspect overflow area to make sure that water will continue to drain away from structures and does not flow onto pavement or neighboring properties.

Once your rain barrel is installed, and throughout the rainy season, maintenance is easy. Simply use the water that's collected and make sure that the rain barrel is emptied on a regular basis. Right before a big storm, double check that the rain barrel is ready to go.



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