

Rain Barrels

NORTH COOK COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is there a screen in the lid?

The screen is to keep mosquitoes and other pests out while letting the water flow freely into the barrel.

Do I need to remove the fittings for winter?

You do not need to remove the fittings for winter. The barrels use plastic fittings because brass and steel do not interface well with plastic barrels. These items expand and contract at a different rate, which is the major cause of other manufacturer's barrels leaking in a short period of time. The only thing you need to do to prepare for the winter season is to drain all the water out of them, remove the linking fitting cap, and open the spigot.

Are your barrels new?

These are USED barrels. They will have some scuff marks and scratches from shipping and handling. Most marks can be taken off with a clean damp cloth. Each barrel has been inspected, cleaned and modify. There are no significant scuffs or scratches which would harm the structural integrity of the barrel leading to leakage. The spigot is installed on the nicer looking face.

How are the lids held onto the barrel?

The lids screw on and hold the cap in place in some models. In others, the lids and screen are held on with a galvanized (won't rust) lock ring.

Why are there so many holes in the lids?

Multiple holes in the cap allow for best collection of water.

Do you paint your barrels?

These barrels are not painted. We offer a very inexpensive and no frills Rain Barrel. If you want to change or enhance the color of your barrel any spray paint that's appropriate for use on plastics should work. We've been told that Krylon brand spray paint works well on plastic and should not peel for years to come.

What kind of spigots and fittings do you use?

An acetal plastic spigot was used for the faucet and a poly fitting for the linking and overflow hoses.

Is there any assembly required?

All fittings are shipped inside the barrel and include instructions to install them into the predrilled and threaded holes.

What is the purpose of the linking fitting?

The linking fitting allows the user to connect multiple barrels together for even more free water and the overflow fitting allows the homeowner to direct the additional water away from their home.

Did the Soil & Water Conservation District manufacture the barrels?

No, the District did not manufacture / refurbish the barrels. We are excited to offer these affordable upcycled barrels to our residents with the support of the nice folks at UpCycle Products, Inc. Making rain water capture more affordable helps to further our mission by conserving community water resources, minimizing stormwater runoff, combating non-point source pollution and highlighting current water issues. Thanks to UpCycle Products we're also given an opportunity to raise much needed, greatly appreciated funds to help sustain our District operations.

Illinois' 98 SWCDs are non-taxing, non-profit local governments.