



2021 Rain Barrel Program

This spring, LLCT and the Water Department/Water Commission are offering wholesale rain barrels through The Great American Rain Barrel Company (TGARBC). Order and pick up with LLCT's Plant Kits on May 22nd from 8-11 A.M. at the DPW Site on Lewis Street.

Water use has become an important issue in Lincoln. Recent years have seen drought conditions, and to protect the levels of our watershed, most summers and into fall residents have seen restrictions on outdoor water use. The largest residential water use is for watering lawns and gardens – according to the Lincoln Water Commission, our daily water use nearly doubles in the summer! Residents with wells might be surprised to learn that well water usage is also restricted, as that also drains the aquifer.

There are many ways to conserve water use, and one ideal way to still provide water to necessary plants, including vegetable gardens, is to install rain barrels. Using rain barrels to water your gardens reduces the water drawn from our drinking water supply, allowing Lincoln to meet the DEP's water conservation goals while simultaneously saving you money. That soft, chemical free water is very good for grass and other plants. During a rain storm, an enormous quantity of water runs off a roof, so you may want more than one! Each 4' x 8' section of roof that receives $\frac{1}{4}$ " of rain will fill a 55-gallon barrel.

TGARBC sells 100% re-purposed, food grade, UV protected and BPA free rain barrels. The barrels are produced in Massachusetts and will last for years when properly drained and stored for winter. TGARBC's main business is food importing. The company has been "upcycling" these shipping drums as rain barrels since 1988, and is able to offer community purchasing programs like this one with support from the MA Department of Environmental Protection.

The rain barrels are easy to install, and when a diverter and screen are used, do not allow mosquitoes to lay eggs in the standing water and do not overflow when full.

Each rain barrel is made from 3/16" food grade polyethylene. The barrel holds 60-gallons. It has a wide mouth, hard top, screw on lid, and comes with a mosquito screen to prevent breeding inside the barrel. The barrel also comes with a plastic spigot threaded for hose attachment, and two elbows for overflow and future linking.

Barrel Maintenance and Tips

- Water from asphalt or treated wood shingle roof may not be safe for use on vegetable gardens or for animals. **Water collected in rain barrels may not be potable.**
- Installation is easy. Situate the barrel on firm, level ground. You can also place the rain barrel on a platform of cement block or paver stones. By elevating the rain barrel, it will be easier to fill a watering can from the lower spigot. Higher elevation also provides greater water pressure, giving faster flow.
- Plan for barrel overflow. Use a downspout **diverter** to automatically redirect water back to the down spout. Barrels can be connected in a series to collect more water from one downspout. The diverter will come with installation instructions, but must be purchased separately.
- Clean the diverter cup of debris regularly. For example, it may fill with leaves in the fall and tree blooms in the spring.
- Empty barrel and leave spigot open at the end of October. Store inside if possible. If storing outside, cover the top or turn barrel upside down, and weigh down the barrel to keep it from blowing away. **During the winter, any water left in the barrel will expand when it freezes and crack the barrel.**

Adapted from materials provided by Ruth Ann Hendrickson (Water Commission) from their 2015 Rain Barrel Distribution Program.

Order online with Lincoln Land Conservation Trust at www.lincolnconservation.org/plant-and-plant-kit-shop. You can visit the [Great American Rain Barrel Company](http://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com) webpage to browse the products, but ***you need to make your purchase through the LLCT's online store to receive the community program pricing!***

Please note: Rain barrels are repurposed. Unpainted barrels have markings and scratches. Unpainted barrels are only available in black. ***If you have a color preference, please purchase a painted barrel. All sales are final.***

We recommend purchasing a "Save the Rain" diverter if you plan to collect rain water from your downspout. ***Please measure your downspout to determine which size diverter best meets your needs. All sales are final.***



Painted Rain Barrel. \$69. Choose Nantucket Gray, Earth Brown (almost Black), or Forest Green. 60-gallon capacity. 24Dx39H in. Weighs 20lb. Made from recycled food grade plastic resin, UV

protected and BPA free. Included is a plastic spigot threaded for hose connection, two overflow fittings, a drain plug, and an insect screen. Diverter is not included.



Unpainted Rain Barrel. \$64. Unpainted barrels have markings and scratches. Only black is available. If you have a color preference or do not want markings or scratches, please choose the painted barrel. 60-gallon capacity. 24Dx39H in. Weighs 20lb. Made from recycled food grade plastic resin, UV protected and BPA free. Included is a plastic spigot threaded for hose connection, two overflow fittings, a drain plug, and an insect screen. Diverter is not included.



Terracotta Rain Barrel. \$60. Unpainted barrels have markings and a scratched finish. If you have a color preference or do not want markings or scratches, please choose the painted barrel. 60-gallon capacity. 24Dx39H in. Weighs 20lb. Made from recycled food grade plastic resin, UV protected and BPA free. Included is a plastic spigot threaded for hose connection, two overflow fittings, a drain plug, and an insect screen. Diverter is not

included.



Save the Rain Diverter. Small. \$20. Small 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" diverter for downspouts that are smaller than 3 1/2" rectangular or round. The small fits downspouts that are approx. 2 x 3 inches or about 10-11" circumference and 3" round. Use the diverter to channel water from your downspout to your barrel. Constructed of galvanized steel for strength and durability. To install, cut the downspout about 9 inches above the rain barrel. To ensure a snug fit, the edges can be crimped so that the diverter fits inside the downspout. Please measure your

downspout before purchasing a diverter to ensure that you choose the best size for your downspout.

Save the Rain Diverter. Large. \$25. Large 3 1/4" x 4" diverter for all rectangular downspouts greater than 3" or 4" round. The large fits downspouts that measure something greater than 3x4" or 14" circumference or a 4" round. Use the diverter to channel water from your downspout to your barrel. Constructed of galvanized steel for strength and durability. To install, cut the downspout about 9 inches above the rain barrel. To ensure a snug fit, the edges can be crimped so that the diverter fits inside the downspout. Please measure your downspout before purchasing a diverter to ensure that you choose the best size for your downspout.



Polished River Stones. \$18. 6lbs. Medium mixed polished river stones for decoration and added filtration at the top of the water barrel.