

Rain Barrel Tips: Installing your Barrel

Make a Firm Base

SAFETY ALERT: A full rain barrel weighs almost 500 pounds. If a full barrel tips over and falls on a child, it could be life-threatening. It is very important that you put your rain barrel on a firm, level place.

The ground must be firm so the barrel does not sink into soft ground and start to tip. A 2"-gravel base with concrete tiles on top is one recommended option. Frost heaves can change the level over the winter. Each spring, check that the base is still level and re-level it as needed.

Mount It on a Platform

Consider mounting it on a **STURDY** platform on the **FIRM BASE** above. The higher the barrel, the more water pressure you get. Plus, it makes it easier to fill a bucket or watering can.

You can make the platform from cement blocks or even curved cement curbing like the Town used at Bemis Hall. Just be sure the top is level each spring.



(Invisible) Black rope around center of barrel

Secure it So it Doesn't Blow Away

At my house, the wind is occasionally strong enough to blow an empty barrel away. We have tied the barrel to the garage with a rope. In the winter, we empty it and turn it upside down and the rope keeps it in place.