

## Rain Barrel Benefits

- Saves money and conserves outdoor water usage
- Helps control moisture levels around the foundation of the house and reduce the risk of basement flooding
- Reduces erosion from rainwater runoff
- Easy and inexpensive to build
- Reduces the amount of pesticides, herbicides, salt, oil, and gasoline that wash from yards into storm drains that flow into local streams
- Saves water when you need it most – between rainfalls and during periods of drought
- Water can be used to wash pets, vehicles, windows, water plants, and much more



## Stormwater Program

The City of Murfreesboro and Middle Tennessee State University operate under a joint Phase II NPDES EPA Stormwater Permit to reduce pollutants that wash into our local streams and rivers during rain events. You can help! In order to protect these streams and the animals and plants that live in them, we have to work as a community to make a difference.

## For More Information

### MIDDLE TENNESSEE

STATE UNIVERSITY

MTSU Stormwater Program  
Environmental Health and Safety  
MTSU Box 32, Murfreesboro, TN 37132  
[www.mtsu.edu/stormwater](http://www.mtsu.edu/stormwater) • 615-494-8708

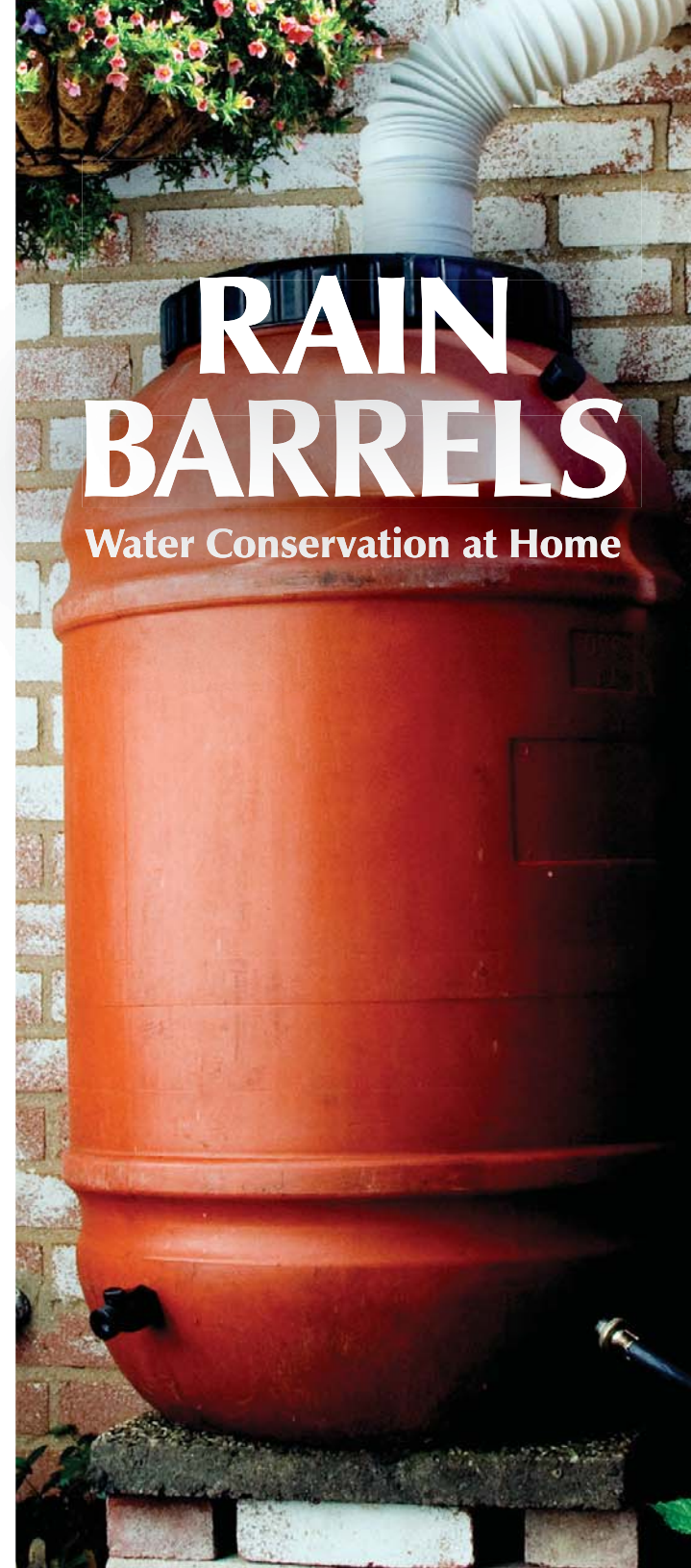
### MURFREESBORO STORMWATER PROGRAM

improving the quality of local streams

Water and Sewer Department  
220 NW Broad St., Murfreesboro, TN 37130  
[www.murfreesborotn.gov/](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/) • 615-848-3200

Brochure funding provided by a University College Public Service Grant offered through Middle Tennessee State University.

0113-444 – MTSU is an AA/EEO employer.



# RAIN BARRELS

Water Conservation at Home



## What is a Rain Barrel?

A rain barrel is a tool used to harvest rainwater off of an impervious surface (roof top).

Once this water is collected it can be used in other places.



## How to Make a Rain Barrel

Additional information and images can be found online. Research varieties before you start. Parts can be substituted as needed.

### Materials

- Food-grade barrel or similar container
- Garden hose spigot assembly (1/2" boiler drain and two metal washers and 1/2" nut)
- 1/2" bulkhead fitting and hose for overflow (optional)
- Pipe thread Teflon tape
- Aluminum screen and sheet metal screws
- Bricks or pavers for barrel foundation
- Tools (drill, 1/2" hole saw, wrench)

### Instructions

- Cut hole with a 1/2" drill saw for spigot assembly near bottom of barrel and within arm's reach.
- Assemble spigot and washer on outside of barrel and thread into hole; wrap threads with tape; add second washer and 1/2" nut and tighten.
- Assemble screen to lid; cut a square hole into the barrel lid; use scrap to create four strips to attach screen with screws.
- Cut and assemble a 1/2" bulkhead fitting near top of barrel and attach hose to direct overflow.
- Build foundation base for barrel with bricks or pavers. (Increase height for water pressure).
- Cut gutter downspout; and position it into barrel.
- Fill and check for leaks.

## FAQ's about Rain Barrels

### How much rain can I expect to collect?

A 55-gallon barrel can fill during a storm. A typical rainfall of one inch falling on average size home of 1,000 square feet will generate about 600 gallons of water when collected from each downspout.

### What about rain barrel maintenance?

An overflow valve and hose can be assembled to prevent rain overflow. Disconnect barrel during cold temperatures and empty to prevent freezing. Clean barrel and screen as needed.

### Can the rain barrel be painted or decorated?

Yes, but only use a type of paint that is especially designed to adhere to plastic.

### Do the rain barrels attract mosquitoes?

When built properly, the screen will keep out mosquitoes and eliminate reproduction.

### Can multiple rain barrels be connected to increase capacity?

Yes, you can use valves such as bulkhead fittings and PVC or hose to connect rain barrels.

