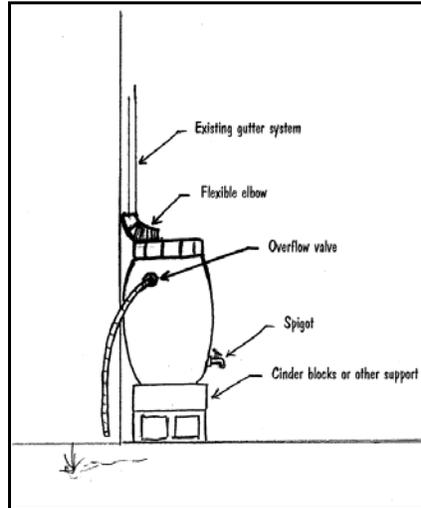




Rain Barrels

Capturing Rainwater From Your Roof



Once your roof drains have been disconnected from the sanitary sewer system, you are in compliance with South Hadley regulations. You need to think now about how to manage the stormwater draining from your roof. Where will it go? There are several options and even combinations of options that may work well for you. A rain barrel is one such option.

Purpose: A rain barrel allows you to collect rainwater from your roof and store it for later use to water lawns, gardens, and indoor plants. This is a good way to conserve water, and reduce water bills during the growing season.

Installation: There are seven easy steps to install your rain barrel.

- ☞ Prepare a level surface beneath the disconnected downspout;
- ☞ Add a sturdy wooden frame or a few cinder blocks that will serve as a platform to elevate your rain barrel (this will give you better water pressure in your hose and will enable you to fit a watering can under the spigot);
- ☞ Place the rain barrel beneath the downspout;
- ☞ Cut your downspout with a fine-toothed hacksaw to an appropriate height above the barrel (save the cut piece of downspout for use in winter);
- ☞ Use a flexible elbow to connect the downspout to the top of the rain barrel;
- ☞ Be sure the overflow hose is directed away from your house toward your lawn or garden.
- ☞ Secure the lid so that the barrel is childproof and sealed against mosquitoes.

Maintenance:

- ☞ Keep gutters and downspouts clear of debris to prevent clogging and to keep water flowing to the rain barrel;
- ☞ Check the screen on the rain barrel after each storm to remove any leaves or pollen that may be plugging the screen;
- ☞ Drain and store your rain barrel before freezing weather sets in (icing can crack the barrel), and store it inside a garage or other protected area that is free of standing water;
- ☞ For the winter months, use a gutter coupling from the hardware store to reattach the bottom of your downspout. Be sure to direct drainage away from your house toward your lawn or garden.