

# Cobb County Water System: Rain Barrel Fact Sheet

A rain barrel is a rainwater harvesting system that is connected to a downspout from a house or building. By collecting rainwater, one can save energy, water, and money. Rain barrels also help reduce erosion and storm water runoff and increase water quality.

**How do I set up a Rain Barrel system at my house, school or office?** There are two options: purchase pre-made rain barrels or create your own.

**The following instructions are for creating your own barrel.**

Obtain the following materials:

- ◆ a sturdy barrel
- ◆ mesh screen
- ◆ plastic faucet
- ◆ steel washer
- ◆ o-ring
- ◆ long zip tie
- ◆ plastic elbow
- ◆ plastic drain cover
- ◆ down spout flex elbow
- ◆ #1 or #2 plug

Tools/Equipment needed:

- ◆ drill
- ◆ 7/8" paddle bit
- ◆ 5/8" paddle bit
- ◆ jig saw
- ◆ scissors
- ◆ channel lock



Athens-Clark County Rain Barrel, 2006

- Step 1.** Cut an opening in the top of the barrel the size of the drain cover.
- Step 2.** Cut a piece of mesh screen slightly larger than the drain cover. Secure the mesh screen to the drain cover with the zip tie. Insert the drain cover into the opening on top of the barrel.
- Step 3.** Drill one hole at the bottom to drain the barrel. Put the plug in the bottom hole.
- Step 4.** Drill a hole for the faucet, approximately 6 inches from the bottom.
- Step 5.** Placing a large steel washer over the faucet threads. Slide an o-ring over the faucet threads. Place the faucet into the hole in the barrel and screw a plastic elbow onto the assembly from the inside of the barrel.
- Step 6.** Cut the downspout to just above the rain barrel. Attach the downspout flex elbow to the downspout.
- Step 7.** Slide the rain barrel under the spout lining up the mesh screen opening with the spout. Spray water on the roof and check to make sure the rain barrel and mesh opening are in the right location.
- Step 8.** Optional: paint your rainbarrel using Krylon Fusion paint.
- Step 9.** Use water collected with rain barrel for gardening purposes.





*Cobb County...Expect the Best!*

## Cobb County Water System 2007 Rain Barrel Project Materials, Costs & Sources

Item	Item Description	Supplier	Total Cost	Cost/barrel
Barrel	55 gallon food grade drum	Advance Drum	18.00	<b>\$18.00</b>
Mesh Screen*	Insect screening (roll)	Ace Hardware	10.00*	<b>.25</b>
½” Plastic Faucet	Acetal sink faucet (PVC)	Ace Hardware	2.99	<b>2.99</b>
Steel Washer	¾” Flat Steel Washer	Ace Hardware	.43	<b>.43</b>
O-Ring*	#12 O-rings 10/bag	Ace Hardware	1.27*	<b>.13</b>
Plastic Elbow	PVC schedule 40-90° elbow	Ace Hardware	.49	<b>.49</b>
Cable Tie*	24” Zip Tie 10/bag (HVAC)	Lowe’s	4.67*	<b>.47</b>
Plastic Drain Cover	6” round grate	Ace Hardware	2.99	<b>2.99</b>
Downspout Flex Elbow	Plastic extension for downspout	Ace Hardware	\$2.00 – 8.00	<b>n/a</b>
Plug	#1 or #2 rubber stopper	Ace hardware	.30	<b>.30</b>
<b>Total</b>	*Supplies multiple barrels		Approx \$25.00/barrel	<b>\$26.05</b>

**Suppliers:**

Advance Drum Service, Inc.  
1835 Dickerson Drive  
Mableton, GA 30126  
404 699-7048

Vickery Ace Hardware  
881 Concord Rd.  
Smyrna, GA 30080  
770 435-4567

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