

RAIN BARRELS

BLACKFALDS
ALBERTA

Rain barrels can be purchased by residents of the Town of Blackfalds for the purpose of water conservation. Water conservation is essential to a healthy community, as Alberta is one of the driest provinces in Canada. Blackfalds faces increasing drought conditions due to climate change, and growing water demand.

With limited freshwater resources and a heavy reliance on the Red Deer River, Blackfalds must take proactive steps to conserve water and protect our watershed for future generations.

One rain barrel can capture over 900 gallons of water a year! With our barrels lasting over 15 years, using a rain barrel contributes significantly to a more water-resilient Blackfalds.

Why use a rain barrel?

- Water Conservation: Reduces reliance on treated city water for outdoor watering.
- Cost Savings: Lowers your water bill by using free rainwater.
- Healthy Gardens: Rainwater is free of chlorine and chemicals, making it better for plants.
- Waste Reduction: Barrels are repurposed from food-grade containers, diverting plastic from landfills.
- Protects your property from localized flooding.

How much does it cost to get a barrel?

Barrels are **\$74 + GST** Use alone or link as many together as you want with a hose kit, which can be purchased from any home improvement or hardware store! Each barrel will hold a maximum of 45 imperial gallons (208L) and comes in blue with a



brass spigot, a 4" screened opening on the top and 2-1.25" side openings with plug / adapter fittings.

Can I use my rain barrel water to water my vegetable garden?

Although it is fine to use rain barrel water on your plant garden and perennials, it is not recommended to use the rain barrel water on your vegetable garden. If you want to use the rainwater on your vegetable garden be aware of the risks and take proper steps to mitigate them.

There are risks of contamination from asphalt shingles and from animal waste in the eaves. This can be mitigated with a first-flush system installed in the downspouts, as well as watering the soil at the base of the plants (not on the vegetables themselves) and washing vegetables thoroughly before eating them.

Where do the rain barrels come from?

Our barrels are made from upcycled plastic, repurposed locally from food condiment barrels. They are high-grade plastic and can last over 15 years if maintained properly.

Do your rain barrels have a removable lid?

For cleaning, inside the barrel there is a bung/plug on the top of the barrel that you can remove to rinse out the interior. We recommend using a power washer or taking it to a wand car wash if there's a lot of sediment or algae build-up.

Winterizing Your Rain Barrel

When the season for watering comes to an end, it's important to winterize your rain barrel(s) so that they are safe and secure. This ensures that you can keep collecting rainwater for many years! We recommend late September or early October for winterizing, but this is weather dependent. When you are getting consistent freezing temperatures at night, it's time to put your rain barrel(s) away for the winter.

1. Remove the black overflow hose, brass tap, and other connecting pieces, & store for next spring.
2. Turn your barrel upside down & drain completely (hint, there is an outlet on the top front section of the barrel that can be unscrewed and used to remove water and to help give the barrel a rinse if needed).
3. Store & secure your barrel for the winter. Ideally, move the barrel into a garage/shed if you can, but if you are leaving it outdoors, store it upside down and secure it to prevent damage & water accumulating.
4. Reconnect your downspout to allow melting snow to drain away from your foundation.

Questions?

Town of Blackfalds

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