



## Rain Barrel Care

### Care and Maintenance Tips

- ◆ Empty your rain barrel on a regular basis to help avoid mosquito problems and to provide storage for the next rainfall. Ideally, use the water in your rain barrel within 10 days.
- ◆ Clean the screen filter periodically. Leaf and other debris from the roof may collect on the screen and block water from entering the barrel.
- ◆ Periodically check that the overflow hose is properly attached and is directing excess water away from the house foundation. Another option is to use a diverter, such as the Watersaver™ that redirects the water to your existing downspout system when the barrel is full.
- ◆ Frequently check to make sure the lid or downspout filter is secure to prevent animals and children from entering the rain barrel.
- ◆ Disconnect your rain barrel prior to the first hard freeze and return your downspout system to its original configuration or extend it away from building foundations.
- ◆ At the end of the fall season, empty and rinse out your rain barrel. Store your rain barrel upside-down in place or, if possible, move it indoors for the winter season. Make sure the rain barrel is completely drained prior to the first hard freeze. Any water remaining in the barrel over the winter months will freeze and cause cracks in the barrel wall.

### Other Tips

- ◆ Water captured in your rain barrel should be used only for watering your lawn or garden, never for drinking.
- ◆ If you treat your roof for pests, unhook your rain barrel for two weeks to keep contamination out of your barrel.