

MAINTENANCE AND CARE

1. Rinse your barrel at the end of each season. During the rainy season, small debris and sediment can slip through the holes in the screen or mesh around the diverter and settle to the bottom of your barrel.
2. Monitor the system regularly to ensure intakes and overflows are not blocked with leaves and other debris from the roof.
3. Check your roof and gutters often. Remove any leaves, branches, dirt, or other litter.
4. Trim or remove any plant materials that overhang your house - animals often use these to access your roof and gutters. This will also reduce the leaves and litter clogging your gutters.
5. **Prevent ice damage.** If a long, cold spell (below 32° for several consecutive days) is predicted, it is recommended you drain your barrels and disconnect them from the downspout to avoid any damage from freezing. Before winter sets in, the barrels should be stored inside.

Questions?

Go to
cityofredlodge.net/rain/

Email
energycorps@cityofredlodge.com



Catch the Rain



Installation, Maintenance, and
Care Manual



City of Red Lodge

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Why Rain Barrels?

The average American family directly consumes nearly 110,000 gallons of water each year, and if you include water used for producing food, energy, and consumer goods, that total jumps to 1.9 million gallons annually! However, a single 55-gallon rain barrel can **save up to 1,300 gallons of water every year.**

Rain barrels collect free rainwater to water gardens, trees, and lawns. This saves you money on water bills, AND helps reduce demand for energy-intensive treated tap water, limits stormwater runoff and erosion, and saves water for use during droughts. Installing a rain barrel is one of the easiest ways to reduce your water footprint and help recharge our rivers, lakes, and aquifers.

Why the City of Red Lodge supports stormwater collection

More rain barrels collecting stormwater in the City will lead to a decreased carbon footprint through reduced need for future incoming Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant capacity, and coincident energy usage at both. This entails a decreased use of taxpayer funds that would've been unnecessarily spent on treatment of stormwater.

INSTALLATION



RainRecycle Hardware Kits

Additional materials needed:

- Safety Glasses and Gloves
- Power Drill
- Measuring Tape or Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Phillips Screwdriver
- Level

Your kit comes with a set of instructions.

Follow the directions to:

1. Select a location for your rain barrel
2. Install the spigot
3. Install water inlet filling
4. Place FlexiFit diverter in your gutter
 - a. **Pro Tip!** Wrap the diverter in some nylon for extra filtration.
5. Connect your barrel to your gutter

Before drilling into your gutter, it's recommended to build a raised base for the barrel out of cinderblocks/bricks to increase water pressure.

Connecting Multiple Barrels

If you choose to connect another barrel to your system, there are two choices. You can choose to connect at the top of your barrels and install a second spigot at the bottom, or connect them at the bottom and have them drain as a system.

For more helpful tips and videos, go to cityofredlodge.net/rain/

PAINTING TIPS

Painting the barrels is a great way to spruce them up and/or have them blend into your garden!

1. **Wash it** - Thoroughly clean the exterior surface of the barrel by wiping away excess dirt and grime with a clean rag.
2. **Rough it up** - Using a fine to medium grade sandpaper, "rough up" the surface of the barrel. Dust off any remaining plastic shavings.
3. **Prime it** - Apply one coat of outdoor primer. Allow the primer to dry, according to the directions on the container.
4. **Paint it** - Now the barrel can be painted any way you like - by stencil, a pattern, freehand, etc. You can even use some leftover exterior paint to make it match the walls of your house! If using a spray paint, we've found it much more effective to splurge for a higher-end art type spray paint. While it may appear to cost more, it takes less coats (often times just one) to get the job done.
5. **Apply clear coat** - Allow the paint to dry completely before applying 1 to 2 coats of a clear coat or clear top coat for plastics. Allow the clear coat to dry in between coats.

SOURCE: snohomishcd.org/rb-care

Want to show us your installed and/or painted barrel?

Email pictures to energycorps@cityofredlodge.com