Thank you for doing your part to harvest rain water! This Rain Barrel Installation How-To Guide is being provided to you as a complement to the rain barrel installation workshop you attended. Please read through this how-to guide completely before beginning the installation of your rain barrel and wear safety glasses and safety gloves throughout the entire rain barrel installation process.

This how-to guide includes two options for installing your rain barrel. Option A includes rain barrel installation instructions for residents whose homes have downspouts. Option B, which begins on page 4, includes rain barrel installation instructions for residents whose homes do not have downspouts. Please determine which option works best for your home before proceeding.
OPTION A – Home with downspouts

Step One – Assembling the Parts and Tools
You will need to assemble the following before you begin the installation of your rain barrel:

**TOOLS LIST**
- Safety glasses
- Safety gloves
- Drill
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Pencil
- Phillips screwdriver
- Level

**PARTS LIST**
1. Rain barrel
2. Fill hose
3. Spigot
4. Threaded Rubber Seal
5. Overflow Drain Assembly
6. Diverter w 2 screws
7. Hole drill set w 2-1/8" hole saw bit

Step Two – Selecting a location for your rain barrel
Before assembling the parts to the rain barrel, select and prepare the location where the rain barrel will be used. This will help you locate the fittings on the barrel in the most convenient location. Please consider the following:

- Select a downspout that is near the plants or garden beds where the collected water will be used. Alternatively, by attaching a hose to the spigot, you can transport the rain water from the barrel to areas further from the rain barrel.
- The downspout must be a rectangular 2” x 3” or 3” x 4”. The provided rain diverter will not work on alternative downspouts.
- The barrel must be located within 20” of the downspout and no more than 6” from the side of the house to use the fill hose provided.
- The ground under the barrel must be level and firm. A solid platform that elevates the rain barrel 6” from the ground and made of cinder blocks, decorative paving stones, wood, or railroad ties will create water pressure and make it easier to place a watering can or bucket under the spigot.
- If the surface is not level, use a shovel or rake to grade the surface. Check by placing a level on the platform and the rim of the barrel before continuing.
- Water weighs 8.3 lbs. per gallon. Be aware that when the rain barrel is full, it will weigh approximately 400 lbs.
- This container is sealed, which will prevent children, animals or mosquitoes from entering the barrel.

Place the rain barrel in the intended location with the front facing out. This will be the side with the spigot hole and overflow drain hole drilled in it. Hold the fill hose in position between the rain barrel and the downspout. Check that the hose can reach horizontally from the top of the barrel to the downspout.
Step Three – Installing the Spigot and Overflow Drain on the Rain Barrel
The holes for the rain barrel’s spigot and overflow drain have been pre-drilled. The spigot hole is located near the bottom of the rain barrel. The overflow drain hole is located near the top of the rain barrel.

1. To install the spigot and overflow drain, insert a threaded rubber seal into both holes. Pinch the seal into a “U” shape for easier insertion.
2. Thread the spigot and overflow drain into the seals until the hex collars sit firmly against the seals. Soapy water or hand lotion will reduce friction and improve fit.

Step Four – Installing the Fill Hose and Diverter
The diverter redirects rain water from your downspout to the barrel and automatically passes water through the downspout when the barrel is full of rainwater. The diverter is to be installed in a hole that is cut in the downspout. Since this rain barrel is a sealed container, the diverter can be located at the same level as the rim of the barrel or higher. This will improve the filling efficiency of the diverter.

Important: Do not cut the downspout until you have read the entire user guide!

1. Extend the fill hose to the downspout and make reference marks on the downspout indicating the location of where the diverter hole is to be drilled. Note: When installing to a 3” x 4” rectangular downspout, you must install the diverter on the narrow 3” side of the downspout (not the front) for the diverter to work properly.
2. Always wear protective safety glasses and safety gloves when cutting or drilling.
3. Once the location of the diverter hole has been marked, drill a hole in the downspout using the 2-1/8” hole saw bit. The hole should be centered on the downspout. Do not force the saw bit to create the hole. Cut slowly and steadily, keeping a firm hold on the drill.
4. The cut edges of the downspout can be sharp! Wear protective safety glasses and safety gloves when handling.
5. For 3” x 4” downspouts, make sure the hole is drilled on the narrow 3” side, not the front side.
6. Insert the diverter into the hole in the downspout by squeezing the sides and pushing the diverter into the downspout until the flange sits flat against the downspout. Do not twist the diverter when installing – push it straight in – with the collection cup facing up at all times to insure a proper seal. Make sure that the arrow on the front of the diverter is installed pointing straight up.
7. Use 2 of the self-tapping screws to attach the diverter to the downspout.
8. Connect the fill hose to the cuff end of the diverter. Press the hose into the diverter until the corrugated section is flush against the diverter. Use soapy water or hand lotion on the hose cuff and seal to reduce friction and improve fit.

Step Five – Connecting the Barrel
1. Extend the fill hose to the desired length, up to 24”. The fill hose may be bent to form elbows.
2. Snap the connector cuff into the rain water fill hole located on top of the rain barrel.
3. Double check the spigot, overflow drain and fill hose connections to make sure everything is snug and fits tightly.
Troubleshooting (Option A)  
If the rain barrel does not fill with water after rainfall:

1. Check the top of the gutter for blockage at the downspout connection.
2. Remove the diverter and check that the downspout, diverter, or fill hose are not blocked by leaves or debris.
3. Make sure the diverter is installed with the collection cup (arrow) facing up.
4. Make sure no point of the fill hose is above the level of the diverter.
5. Check that the diverter is installed at the correct height. It must be above the water inlet on the barrel to fill properly.
6. Check the spigot to make sure that water is not leaking. Even a slow leak will drain the barrel over time.

If you continue to experience challenges with your rain barrel, contact us at klab@lacity.org and we’ll get you in touch with someone who can assist. To view a rain barrel installation video, visit: http://bpw.lacity.org/klab/rainbarrels

OPTION B – Home Without Downspouts

Step One – Assembling the Parts and Tools
You will need to assemble the following before you begin the installation of your rain barrel:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOOLS LIST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety glasses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety gloves</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Optional:** Rake and/or shovel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTS LIST (refer to numbers shown on Page 1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1   Rain barrel (including colander secured on top)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2   Spigot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3   Threaded Rubber Seal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4   Overflow Drain Assembly</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Step Two – Selecting A Location For Your Rain Barrel
Once you have assembled the parts to the rain barrel and tools you’ll need to install your rain barrel, select and prepare the location where the rain barrel will be used. This will help you locate the fittings on the barrel in the most convenient location. Please keep in mind:

1. Since you are installing a rain barrel at a home without downspouts, walk around your house and determine the points where water drips from your roof. Some locations will drain more water than others, depending on your roof’s design.
2. Consider selecting an area that is near the plants or garden beds where the collected water will be used. Alternatively, by attaching a hose to the spigot, you can transport the rain water from the barrel to areas further from the rain barrel. Make sure no point of the fill hose is above the level of the diverter.
3. The ground under the barrel must be level and firm. A solid platform that elevates the rain barrel 6” from the ground and made of cinder blocks, decorative paving stones, wood, or railroad ties will create water pressure and make it easier to place a watering can or bucket under the spigot properly.
4. If the surface is not level, use a shovel or rake to grade the surface. Check by placing a level on the platform and the rim of the barrel before continuing.
5. Water weighs 8.3 lbs. per gallon. Be aware that when the rain barrel is full, it will weigh approximately 400 lbs.
6. This container is sealed, which will prevent children, animals or mosquitoes from entering the barrel.

Place the rain barrel in the intended location with the front facing out. This will be the side with the spigot hole and overflow drain hole drilled in it.
**Step Three – Installing the Spigot and Overflow Drain on the Rain Barrel**

The holes for the rain barrel’s spigot and overflow drain have been pre-drilled. The spigot hole is located near the bottom of the rain barrel. The overflow drain hole is located near the top of the rain barrel.

1. To install the spigot and overflow drain, insert a threaded rubber seal into both holes. Pinch the seal into a “U” shape for easier insertion.
2. Thread the spigot and overflow drain into the seals until the hex collars sit firmly against the seals. Soapy water or hand lotion will reduce friction and improve fit.

**Step Four – Double Checking the Water Flow**

Once you have the rain barrel in place, you may want to consider spraying a small amount of water from a garden hose onto the roof to ensure that the rain barrel is in the right location for the rain water to pour directly into the colander.

**Troubleshooting (Option B)**

If the rain barrel does not fill with water after rainfall:

1. Check the roofline for leaves or debris that is blocking the rainfall.
2. Check the colander and remove any leaves or debris that may have collected.
3. Check the spigot to make sure that water is not leaking. Even a slow leak will drain the barrel over time.

If you continue to experience challenges with your rain barrel, contact us at klab@lacity.org and we’ll get you in touch with someone who can assist. To view a rain barrel installation video, visit: [http://bpw.lacity.org/klab/rainbarrels](http://bpw.lacity.org/klab/rainbarrels)

Please remember! This rain barrel has a “Do Not Drink!” sticker placed above the spigot. Do not remove this sticker. Never drink the water from this rain barrel! The collected rain water is to be used for irrigation purposes ONLY!

Congratulations! You are now ready to harvest rain water! We appreciate you doing your part to help Los Angeles conserve water and create a sustainable future!