

## Winterizing Rain Barrels



Rain barrels provide many useful tools that can be utilized around your property. They provide a water source for watering landscaped areas, lawns, and gardens. The best part is that it is free water. All you have to do is to connect a downspout to a rain barrel and you'll have free water all year long. Well besides winter.

Winterizing your rain barrel is a very important part to lengthen the life of your rain barrel. During the winter any water within it has the potential to freeze and then crack the sides of the rain barrel. Over time, this will create holes and ruin your rain barrel's ability to hold water. It is important to remove your rain barrel from its downspout and tuck it away for winter. The winter temperatures will also impact your exterior units, such as hoses being split or tearing your mosquito netting. We have prepared a helpful guide to help with winterizing your rain barrel!

**Drain Your Rain Barrel** – Your first step should start with draining your rain barrel to a pervious area. A fully loaded rain barrel weights nearly 500 lbs on average and it'll be smart to drain them completely before water start to freeze and become hard to deal with.



**Remove Hoses, Rain Spout Diverters, and Leave Faucets Open** – Hoses split easily in cold weather and should be stored elsewhere where temperatures are consistently above freezing.

**Downspout Diversion** – If you cut your downspout to install your rain barrel, you will need to replace the rain spout with a flexible extension to redirect the downspout away from your home. This way it avoids any potential damages to the foundation.



**Clear Debris from the Barrel and Filter Screen** – Make sure to use this opportunity to clear out any muck or debris left inside. It is also important to dry your barrel, in order to prevent possible mold and fungus growth. Sanitizing your rain barrel from inside will help to reduce any bacterial growth from occurring.

**Storing** – Be sure to store in a temperature controlled, dry place, such as a garage or a basement. These locations also help to protect it from any incidental damages. If you leave it outside, cover it with a tarp or turn it upside down to prevent water from accumulating inside.

