

**Here are a few
things to think about
before making your
rain barrel!**



#1. Where am I going to put the rain barrel (under which downspout)?

#2. How do I want to direct the overflow water from my barrel?

#3. Do I want to connect two barrels together?

Q#1. Which downspout?

- Where you locate your barrel is up to you, but you probably will want to put it near where you plan to use the water.



Question #2. How to direct the overflow?

Your rain barrel will fill up, even in smaller rain events. Therefore we need to plan for the “overflow” water from the rain barrel.

There are a couple options to handle the overflow water: an overflow hose, or a diverter.

Example of rain barrel with diverter and with an overflow hose.



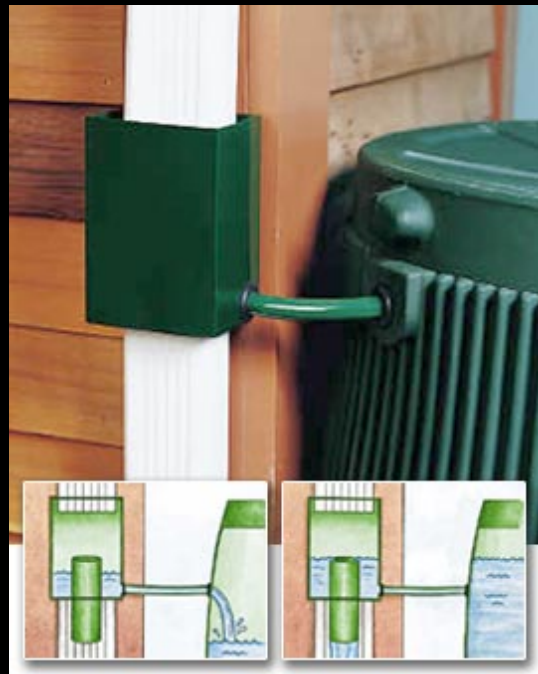
Barrel with diverter



Barrel with overflow hose

A “rain barrel diverter” works so that when your rain barrel fills up, the diverter directs the overflow water back to your downspout.

Example of automatic diverter (works by water pressure)



Example of diverter with manual switch to direct water to barrel or downspout



By default, we help you construct a barrel that overflows via a hose.

We can help you construct a barrel that works with an automatic diverter - let us know at the workshop

Where do I get a diverter?

Diverters generally cost about \$25-30.

We will not have diverters for purchase at the workshop, but our rain barrel accessories resource list is a good place to start your research.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/rbaccessories.pdf>

Location is everything.

Once you have selected a downspout, there's one more consideration. Where will you send your overflow if via a hose? Which side makes sense for your diverter?



A “lefty” with overflow hose



A “righty”

Q#3. Do you want to connect two barrels?

If you want to connect two rain barrels together, one barrel will need to have two holes at the top.

One of the upper holes will connect to the first rain barrel, and the second hole will be an overflow for both barrels.



Don't worry if you're not sure about the answers to these questions!

We can help you at the workshop.

