

How to maintain and winterize your rain barrel:

Winterize

Before you drain your barrel to winterize it, take 1 cup of vinegar and add that to the water in the rain barrel let it sit overnight. This will clean and kill any mold that has accumulated inside the barrel. Drain this water over your grass to filter out impurities before entering our storm drains that drain to our tributaries and Chesapeake Bay. Then follow the winterization steps below.

Step 1: Drain your rain barrel by opening all spigots. Once drained turn the barrel upside down. The average rain barrel weighs 500 pounds when full and should be fully drained before attempting to move.



Step 2: Remove hoses and rain spout diverter and leave faucets open. Re-connect your downspout to run water away from your house as it functioned prior to installing your rain barrel.

Step 3: Clear debris from the barrel and the filter Screen. An empty barrel is a good opportunity to clear out the muck that can lead to mold and fungus growth. Take a toilet brush or the like and scrub the inside walls and rinse with a hose.

Step 4: How to store, if space is available store inside your garage if that is not an option move behind your home and place against your house to avoid it blowing away and store upside down to avoid collecting water that may freeze and crack the barrel.

To keep cycled clean water in your barrel – USE THIS WATER – water your lawn, your pets, your houseplants keep it moving. Moving water will not create algae vs stagnant water.

** Note if you are having issues with algae during the summer collection months, you can add a few tables spoons of Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV) Mother Earth Organic to the water which is safe for birds to drink and watering your garden plants.