



PRODUCT DETAILS

Q: What features are included with the rain barrels?

A: The following features help this program support a sustainable product that conserves water and protects local water sources:

- "Upcycled" product modified in the USA
- Composed of high-quality, food-grade HDPE
- Designed for ease of use w/multiple connections
- Preassembled with brand new fittings
- Gravity-fed, no pump required
- Multiple rain barrels may be linked together
- Built-in screen keeps out debris and mosquitos

Q: Is a warranty offered with a rain barrel purchase?

A: Yes, the rain barrels come with a 1-year warranty on the material and workmanship. The warranty is voided if the barrel is not properly winterized prior to a freeze event.

Q: What does the term "Upcycle" mean?

A: "Upcycle" means to repurpose a discarded object to create a product of higher quality or value than the original.

Q: Are these barrels brand new?

A: No, the barrels were previously used to ship food to the US from trade partners. The barrels may have scuff marks from shipping and handling, but each barrel is inspected to ensure the structural integrity of the barrel is not compromised. The barrels are then cleaned and outfitted with brand new fittings and screens. Although the barrel interior is cleaned with a pH-neutral soap, there may still be residual odors of the commodities originally shipped in the barrels, such as olives and pickles. The odors will dissipate over time, but until then, you may crave pizza when you're around your new rain barrel!

ORDERING & PICKUP

Q: Do I need to be a resident to place an order?

A: No, it does not matter where you live in the OKC metro. You may place your order with any of the participating municipalities.

Q: How do I purchase an item(s)?

A: You may order online with a debit/credit card, or include a check with a mail-in order form and mail it to Upcycle Products at P.O. Box 315, Channahon, IL 60410.

Q: Why is my shipping address required during online checkout if I have to pick up my purchase at the event?

A: If you order a rain barrel, compost bin, or a pedestal, you will be required to pick up those items during your chosen event; however, the smaller accessories will be shipped directly to your home which requires a correct shipping address.

Q: What if I am unable to pick up my order the day(s) of my chosen event?

A: We cannot guarantee holding your items for a later pick-up. You may have a friend or neighbor pick up your order for you as long as they have your name and order receipt.

Q: What can I do if I miss the order deadlines?

A: Multiple Oklahoma municipalities are participating in this regional event. You may order from any of their programs; however, you will be required to pick up your order during their scheduled event. Visit <https://coswa.wordpress.com> for specific event information.

Q: Why is my phone number required during online checkout?

A: A phone number is required to provide event organizers a quick contact method should a resident forget to pick up their order. It will only be used to arrange a new pick-up time and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Q: Who do I call if I'm having trouble placing my order?

A: Please call Richard Fielding with Upcycle Products at (815) 735-9583.

Q: Can my order be shipped directly to me?

A: No, all orders must be picked up during your chosen event.

Q: Can I reserve a rain barrel online and pay for it during the event?

A: No, all products must be purchased before the event.

Q: Will there be extra rain barrels available for purchase the day of the event?

A: No, each municipality will only receive products that were pre-ordered. No additional barrels or accessory items will be available during the events for purchase or exchange.

Q: Will the rain barrel fit in my car? What are the dimensions of the rain barrel?

A: Yes, most vehicles will be able to accommodate the rain barrel in either the back seat or front passenger seat. There may be some exceptions depending on the make and model of the car. The rain barrels are 55-gal, 38" H x 22" D.

PLACEMENT & INSTALLATION

Q: Does my Homeowner's Association (HOA) allow rain barrels?

A: COSWA recommends you check your HOA's Covenants and Bylaws for restrictions on placement, color, and design of any rain barrel before purchasing.

Q: How do I install my rain barrel?

A: Read the provided setup instructions prior to installation. Your rain barrel comes with all the components needed to start collecting rainwater. Don't forget to attach a garden hose to the overflow fitting near the top of the barrel so that the overflow can be diverted away from your home's foundation, and keep the water level below the screen.

Q: Where is the best place to put my rain barrel?

A: Choose a downspout on your house that is closest to the plants you water the most. If you want to install your rain barrel around the corner from where the gutter is located, a flex hose may be connected to your downspout and then wrapped around the corner of your house to direct the water into the barrel. If you choose to set up a drip irrigation hose, remember that these rain barrels operate by gravity so elevate the barrel higher than the drip hose.

Q: Do I need to elevate my rain barrel?

A: Elevating your rain barrel isn't required for it to function; however, these barrels rely on gravity to drain the stored water, so extra height will increase the head pressure. For every foot of height you add to your stand, you'll gain 0.43 psi of head pressure. From a practical standpoint, the extra height will also make it easier to access the spigot at the base of the barrel as well. If elevating your rain barrel, install on a solid, level foundation that will support ~600 lbs.

Q: My home does not have a gutter system. Can I still use a rain barrel?

A: Yes! You can still reap the benefits of owning a rain barrel without gutters. Observe where rain water concentrates and drips from your roof line during a rain event and place your rain barrel under that spot. Adding a "rain chain" under the roof crease in that location will help to divert the rain directly into your rain barrel.

Q: Will COSWA assist with the installation of my new rain barrel?

A: No, each homeowner will be responsible for installing their new rain barrel.

USE & MAINTENANCE

Q: How do I maintain my rain barrel?

A: Rain barrels require very little maintenance. If the stored water develops a foul smell, drain and clean the interior with a brush and fresh water. To clean the screen, simply remove the lid, lift the dirty screen out and clean. If your screen is damaged, use the existing screen as a template and cut yourself a new one using a similar material which may be available at your local hardware store.

Q: How do I winterize my rain barrel?

A: It is not necessary to remove the fittings for winter. These barrels use plastic fittings since brass and steel do not interface well with plastic barrels since the different materials expand and contract at a different rate, which is a major cause of other manufacturer's barrels leaking in a short period of time. To prepare for the winter season, drain all the water out of the barrel, remove all hoses and the linking fitting cap, and open the ball valve. Winterizing your rain barrel is very important in order to maintain the warranty. If the barrel fills with water and freezes, the barrel will crack and void the 1-year warranty.

Q: What about mosquitos?

A: These rain barrels are equipped with a screen to prevent mosquitos from entering the top of the barrel. If a garden hose is attached to the overflow fitting to keep the water level below the screen, mosquitos will not be an issue.

Q: How do I prevent algae/mold growth in rain barrels?

A: Despite the appearance and scent, the algae found in rain barrels are typically not harmful and the added nutrients may be beneficial to your soil and plants. However, here are a few options homeowners may use to help prevent algae growth:

- These barrels are made of food-grade HDPE that have natural UV inhibitors to prevent sunlight from entering the barrel and encouraging algae growth.
- Regularly use and/or drain your barrel. Stagnant water promotes algal growth.
- Algae growth depends on sunlight, so install your rain barrel in an area that receives the least amount of sun.
- In addition to sunlight, algae also needs nutrients to grow so keep your gutters free of leaves and debris.
- Vinegar or bleach may be used in small amounts to stifle algae growth. Add 1 cup of vinegar to a full rain barrel or add 1/8 tsp of regular, unscented, liquid household bleach for each gallon of water in the rain barrel, stir, and let stand for a day or two before using the water.
- Clean your rain barrel and attachments once per year with an eco-friendly cleansing agent.

Q: What if I do not use all of the stored rainwater?

A: If you struggle to empty your barrel between storms, you may attach a hose to your barrel's spigot and extend it to your planting bed for drip irrigation. Wait to cut the holes until after the hose has been arranged, so the holes will line up with your plants. Then, through trial and error, determine to what degree the spigot should be left open to provide enough pressure in the hose.