

THE ECOLOGY CENTER

Get Barreled Workshop Toolkit



The
Ecology
Center

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HOW TO HOST A GET BARRELED WORKSHOP

SOURCE

Before welcoming eager rain-collectors to your local chapter, do a little research on sourcing barrels in your area. The good news? Any vessel can capture the rain! Trash cans and other repurposed containers will do a great job of catching those drops.

For a more standardized offering, try any local container store. The Ecology Center works with distributor Cruz Containers to source our barrels. We use 55-gallon, food-grade plastic barrels in blue or black. Most color choices are purely aesthetic. However, make sure you stay away from transparent or white barrels -- these are subject to bacteria growth due to light infiltration.

Rebates are another important aspect of rainwater catchment that varies by region. Be sure to check your city, county, or water district for incentives to install rain barrels for homeowners. These rebates are usually offered on condition that the installed barrel is documented, and meets certain qualifications. See the [SoCal Water\\$mart](#) program for what an example of a rainwater rebate program looks like!

PREP

First, familiarize yourself with the basics of rainwater harvesting. If you need a refresh, The Ecology Center has a helpful online [resource](#) and [video](#) to guide you through different variations of rain barrel installations.

Second, gather your community! Included in your **Get Barreled Workshop Toolkit** are social media assets your chapter can use to introduce the initiative to your followers. Make sure to include information about rebates, water conservation, and watershed benefits when communicating about the upcoming workshop. Use the hashtag **#GetBarreled** before, during, and after the workshop to spread the word, and encourage participants to share their success.

Make sure to gather all of the necessary materials:

- Demonstration rain barrel
- Diverter parts and installation tools
 - a. The downspout diverter kit The Ecology Center uses is available on our [online store](#). Parts can also be procured separately—for the complete breakdown see installation hand-out.
 - b. Beam Level
 - c. Drill
 - d. Screwdriver
 - e. Measuring Tape
 - f. Optional: Materials to level barrel like gravel/sand, cinder blocks, bricks, wood
- Introductory information (I.E. Water Cycle, Watersheds)
- The Ecology Center's **Half Sheet Handout: How to Install a Rain Barrel**, enough for all participants
- The Ecology Center's **Get Barreled Resource Guide**, for instructor and all participants if desired



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HOST

There are a few important details to remember when hosting a workshop:

- Make sure your participants know what to expect. Start with a short explanation of how the workshop will be structured, and what you will be learning and doing together.
- Introduce rainwater catchment by facilitating a discussion around what type of benefits result from harvesting the rain. Need ideas? Check out our digital resource [Why You Should Harvest the Rain](#).
- A little known fact related to rainwater catchment is just how much water can be collected at home, regardless of how much annual rainfall your region averages. Every 100 sq ft of roof yields approximately 60 gallons of water per every inch of rain.
Optional: Go through a [Calculate Rainwater Potential](#) exercise in your Resource Guide with participants to explore how much water the average household can collect.
- Knowing where to place a rain barrel is an important step in the process. Read our [Make A Home for Your Rain Barrel](#) resource in your Resource Guide if you have questions.
- There are a few considerations to discuss before beginning the demonstration:
 - a. Roofing material: Metal is best, then tile, and then wood. Tar is not recommended.
 - b. Make sure all gutters are clean before the rainy season, and adjusted so that water will flow downward.
 - c. Always consider the overflow! The kit The Ecology Center uses was chosen because it takes overflow into consideration. With the gutter diverter system, a full barrel will result in water continuing to flow down the downspout as it was before the barrel was installed. Make sure that the location of all potential overflow will capture water in effective, beneficial ways.
- Follow **How to Install a Rain Barrel** in your Resource Guide and lead the entire group through the installation of the demonstration barrel. Make sure to involve attendees in the process, as well as provide ample time for questions and discussion!

DIGITAL ASSETS INCLUDED

- Digital Resource Toolkit
- Print Ready Handout For Workshop Participants
- Customizable Get Barreled Postcard
- Customizable Get Barreled Poster
- Get Barreled Social Media Assets