



Rainwater Barrel Maintenance



Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District

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www.gcgcd.org

Keeping Your Barrel Clean

It is important to prevent risks of bacterial, fungal, or viral contamination in your rain barrel. Without proper maintenance your barrel can become a clogged breeding ground for unwanted insects and contamination. To prevent this, you can clean your barrel annually. Other than an annual cleaning, water must not be kept in the barrel for more than 10 days! You will have to clean it more frequently. With yearly care, your barrel can have a lifespan up to **20** years!

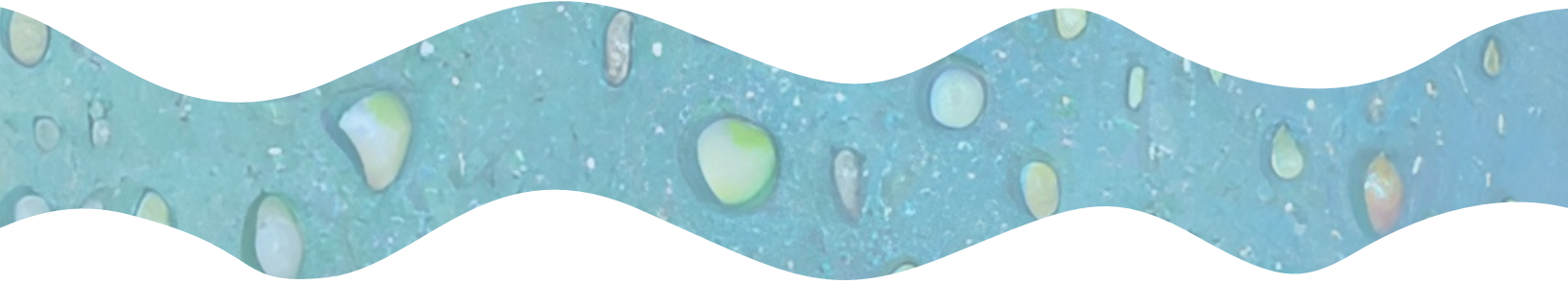
What You'll Need:

To maintain the efficiency of your barrel, gather the following materials:

- Water Hose
- Dish Soap or 3% Hydrogen Peroxide, which works as a low-grade, environmentally friendly bleach! Dilute 1:1 with fresh water.
- A mop, scrubbing brush, or a sponge

How to Clean Your Barrel

First, empty your barrel of any residual water. Use it to water plants! Next, rinse your barrel out until there is no longer any visual debris coming out. If you are using hydrogen peroxide, scrub the inside of your barrel with the mop, brush, or sponge until there is no visual residue on the sides. If you're using dish soap, you can add 3-5 drops in with a few inches of water into your barrel, then use the mop, brush or sponge to remove the residue buildup. To thoroughly rinse your rain barrel, set it on its side and roll it back and forth (being mindful of the spigot and overflow pipe). Keep rinsing until there are no visible suds or debris. To clean the outlet, you can open the faucet to let the cleansing water run through it. When the water runs clear after rinsing, you're done!



A Clean Barrel is a Healthy Barrel

Your collected rainwater can be extremely useful if you know how to keep it fresh and pure. By paying attention to the state of your rainwater, and by following these simple cleaning instructions annually, you can keep your barrel at peak performance for years to come. Happy Rainwater Harvesting!

