

# RAINWATER HARVESTING GUIDE

Collection systems for your home, school, or community garden

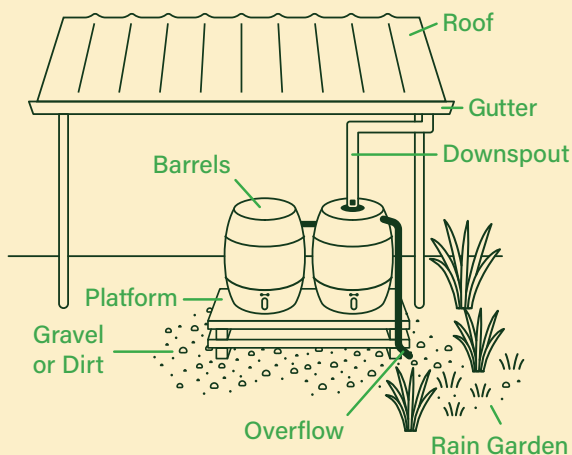
**Rainwater Harvesting** is the practice of collecting and storing rainwater for future use.

Water pollution and drought have caused rainwater harvesting to become an increasingly popular technique for conserving water in urban areas.

The practice of capturing and storing rainwater has many added benefits for homes, community gardens, and other outdoor spaces.

**All rainwater harvesting systems should have four main components:**

1. A roof or other collection surface
2. Gutter(s) and a downspout
3. Rain barrel(s) with platform
4. An overflow system



## A few tips...

- The best place to position your barrel(s) is on level ground close to a downspout.
- Gravity moves water downhill. Be sure there is a downward slope in collection surfaces, gutters, and pipes.
- Single rain barrels can be connected to form a larger storage system (recommended only up to four barrels).
- Water will break the barrels when frozen, so make sure that barrels are emptied before the winter.
- Barrels should be placed on a platform so that water can be easily accessed. Depending on the material, cord can be used to secure the barrels to the platform.

# SYSTEM INSTALLATION

NYC rain barrels come with connection kits and detailed instructions. The four main steps for installing your system are:

1. Build a platform for your tank by first leveling and compacting the soil where the platform will sit. A few inches of gravel is optional and helps with leveling and drainage beneath the platform.
2. Place barrel(s) on your platform to figure out where the downspout will need to be cut.
3. Cut the downspout and connect the barrel(s) to the diverter kit that comes with your rain barrel.
4. Connect the overflow to the diverter kit, directing the overflow to vegetation or an area that drains well.

Finally, anchor the barrel(s) to the platform so that it doesn't move when empty.

## MATERIALS & TOOLS

NYC and other cities may give away 50-gallon barrels that come with connection kits and instructions. Kits can also be purchased online or at your local hardware store.

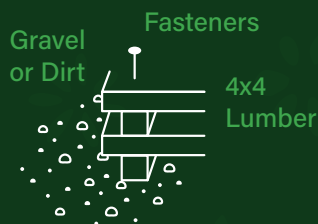
The following materials and tools may also be required:

- Tank platform material such as treated lumber, plastic lumber, or concrete blocks.
- Rope or nylon cord and eyebolts to secure the tank to the platform.
- Saw, drill, tape measure, tin snips, gutter fastener, rivet gun.

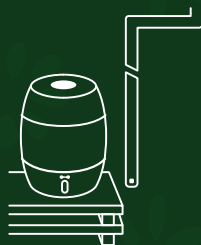
Learn more about rainwater harvesting and rain gardens at: [www.grownyc.org/green-infrastructure](http://www.grownyc.org/green-infrastructure)

# STEPS

## 1. Build a platform



## 2. Cut the downspout



## 3. Connect the tank(s)



## 4. Direct the overflow

