

What is RC&D?

Permanently authorized as part of the 2002 Farm Bill, Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) is a unique program that is led by local volunteers. RC&D councils analyze community needs, develop plans to meet those needs, and coordinate the resources required to accomplish those plans.

RC&D provides a way for people to work together to plan and carry out activities that will make their area a better place to live. Such activities lead to sustainable communities, prudent land use and the sound management and conservation of natural resources.

Program objectives focus on “the quality of life” improvements achieved through natural resources conservation and community development. Local individual projects can include anything from improving water quality, providing training programs and promoting historical preservation.

Local RC&D councils partner with conservation districts, county governments, municipalities, state and federal agencies, comprehensive planning agencies, and local non-profit organizations. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides leadership within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the RC&D program.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D

Executive Board:

Jeanette Jamieson	President
Edsel Nix	Vice-President
Larry Nix	Treasurer
Dennis Brown	Secretary
Lewis Canup	Member-at-Large
Jim Dobson	Member-at-Large

Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D

Member Organizations:

Counties:

Banks	Hall	Towns
Dawson	Hart	Union
Forsyth	Lumpkin	White
Franklin	Rabun	
Habersham	Stephens	

Other:

- ⇒ Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District
- ⇒ Broad River Soil and Water Conservation District
- ⇒ Hall County Soil and Water Conservation District
- ⇒ Stephens County Soil and Water Conservation District
- ⇒ Upper Chattahoochee River Soil and Water Conservation District
- ⇒ Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center

Mission Statement:

To assist individuals and communities in utilizing and protecting our natural resources while improving the economy, environment and quality of life.

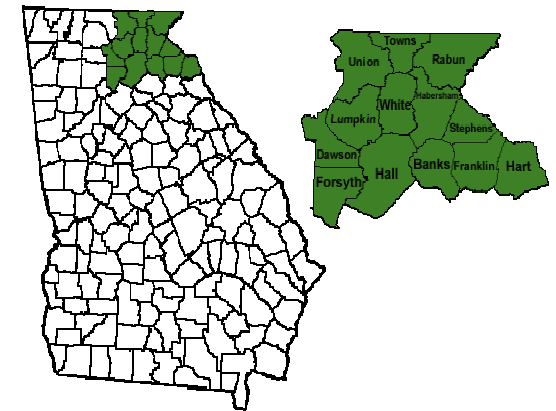
Rain Barrel Program

Offered by

The Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council

In partnership with

North Georgia Technical College



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(RC&D)
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Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council

Rain Barrel Program

What is a Rain Barrel?

Rain barrels are containers or systems which collect and store rain water from rooftops for later use.

A rain barrel is relatively simple and inexpensive to construct and can sit conveniently under any residential gutter down spout. Rain barrels can be used individually or linked in tandem to capture a greater volume of water.

Why Harvest Rainwater?

Rain barrels do more than catch rainwater. While collecting water from the downspout, these barrels also:

- Divert water from the municipal storm drain system
- Protect our rivers and streams from runoff pollution
- Control moisture levels around the foundation of your home
- Provide oxygenated, un-chlorinated water which is ideal for plants
- Direct overflow water to where you want it
- Save you money
- Conserve a vital natural resource

How Much Water Can You Collect in Rain Barrels During a Rainfall?

For every inch of rain that falls on a roof catchment area of 1,000 square feet, you can expect to collect approximately 600 gallons of rainwater.

Rule of thumb for watering:

- **Shrubs:** up to once a week - apply one gallon of water per foot of plant height
- **Lawns:** up to once a week - up to one inch per application
- **Trees:** up to once a week - one inch of water under entire canopy

Installation

- Before you start, make sure that your roof is clean and your gutter is clear of debris.
- Select a place for your rain barrel under a down spout on level, solid ground free of any rocks, roots or debris that can make your rain barrel rock from side to side. Remove leaves and organic material that will make your base soft and unsecure. Level the ground with a shovel or rake if needed.
- We recommend raising your barrel a few inches by placing it on top of flat landscape / paver-type stones or concrete blocks. Make sure your base is sturdy and level. Raising your rain barrel a few inches off of the ground will give you more water pressure and make it easier to reach for the faucet or use a watering can.
- Place the rain barrel in position
- Using the flexible extendable gutter extension as a guide, cut the gutter downspout with a metal hack saw or metal cutting pliers. The gutter extension flexes like an accordion so an exact measurement is not needed.
- Flex your gutter extension to the shape and distance you need. Attach the gutter extension to the downspout and secure with two screws (optional, but recommended). Rest the end on the top of your rain barrel.

Maintenance

- Make sure to clean your gutters and downspout, and check that the mosquito screen at the top of the barrel is free of debris. Periodically, check the connections, fittings, and screen to be sure that they are working properly, free of debris, and fit snugly.
- Clean the inside of your rain barrel when needed by spraying out with a hose.
- Check your over-flow hose and connections.
- Keep the lid on to keep **mosquitoes** from laying eggs. Make sure you have a secure fit. **Mosquito dunks** can be used in rain barrels if desired. Mosquito Dunks are a larvicide and not harmful to pets, people or plants.

General Information

- Barrels can be purchased assembled or alone.
- Our products are food grade plastic barrels.
- We have 55 gallon barrels in stock. Special order sizes include 30 and 250 gallon containers.
- Barrels have other uses including, but not limited to, livestock feeders, recycling containers, waterers, and compost bins.
- Shipping/delivery charges may apply.
- We do not provide on-site installation.

Contact us for pricing information and to place an order.



Caution: Do not install a rain barrel if you apply toxic chemicals to your roof or if your roof is made with treated cedar shakes.
