## **Rain Barrel Quick Reference Guide**

Things to consider when installing a rainwater harvesting system:

- o Number/ Location of downspouts
- o Installation space Choose a barrel/cistern that works in the space you have available
- o Uses for water Choose a system that best meets your water needs and capacity
- Drainage/overflow swale leads away from structures
- Aesthetics Make sure you like the looks of your new system
- Roof size (see calculations below)

Components of a rain barrel system

- Input
  - Divert the entire downspout or use an indownspout diverter
  - Screening or mesh required to prevent insects in water system
  - OPTIONAL Leaf Eater
    - Can replace input mesh
    - Screens out larger pollutants before they enter
  - OPTIONAL First Flush Diverter
    - Use a first flush diverter:
      - In a high dust/ particulate area
      - Able to maintain it
      - To reduce particulates in system
    - When not to use a first flush diverter
      - Regular maintenance not available
      - Low dust areas
      - Small watersheds (such as a storage/ tool shed)
      - Water will only be used in watering cans or hose without nozzle
- Rainwater Storage
  - Single or daisy-chained
    - Wine Barrel
    - Cistern
    - Decorative or food-grade
- Overflow
  - (not needed for in-downspout diverter)
    - High on the barrel
    - Connect to a garden or swale
    - Must drain on your property
    - Mesh or screening to prevent insects

## Maintaining your rain harvesting system:

Task	Minimal Time-line	Ideal Time-line
Check/Empty Leaf Eater	Twice a year Once a Month	
Empty/Clean First Flush Diverter	Twice a year (After the First and Last storm)	Before Every Storm
Drain System (Use Harvested Water)	Every 5 years	After Every Storm
lush Clean Water Through System (Wash Out Barrels)	Every 5years	Once a year



- Output
  - Drip system
  - Hose
  - Faucet
  - o Bioswale

## Calculate your harvesting potential:

sqft	xin	x 0.62 gal /in*sqft	=gal
roof size	Amount of rain	Conversion Factor	Harvesting Potential



For more information, visit our website at grassrootsecology.org