

Architectural Review Board (ARB)  
Supplementary Guidelines for Rain Barrel System (RBS)  
Adopted by the Board of Directors (10/29/19)

Definition of Rain Barrel System (equipment): a food safe container, i.e., barrel or other approved shape, with storage capacity up to **TBD\*** gallons and the necessary hardware to provide a connection from the downspout to the Rain Barrel and from the Rain Barrel to the lawn / garden.

Prerequisites:

A non-transparent fence 6 feet in height is recommended around the perimeter of the lot and should also be compliant with additional definitions and specifications stipulated in the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions and amendments and promulgations and ARB rules and guidelines. A Privacy Screen, approved by the ARB, should be installed around the RBS in the event the location of the RBS is not fenced.

Location:

The Rain Barrel System is preferred to be located at a downspout that is close to the plants / garden that you water the most. Any overflow from the RBS should soak into your yard, not your neighbor's property; and not into your house or garage foundation; or the Common Area. The RBS should be secured to prevent it from causing damage due to flying away when empty and should be located on a pervious (landscaped) surface not an impervious (paved) surface. The Rain Barrel may also be placed on concrete blocks to improve access to the water spigot.

Installation:

All equipment should be assembled as recommended by the Polk County Rain Barrel Course and anchored securely to the ground. Each Rain Barrel should have a locked cover, a mosquito-proof screen and be cleaned routinely (at least annually) to prevent mosquito breeding (mosquito repellent tablets may be used). The Rain Barrel lid(s) should be locked at all times to prevent children or animals from entering / falling in. The Rain Barrel System Overflow pipe should carry water away from the house foundation but should not flow directly into the Common Area, i.e., excess water from the RBS should be directed to flow in such a manner as to avoid violating SWFWMD requirements. As close as possible, the Rain Barrel and associated connections should be painted to match the color of the wall where the RBS will be situated. The RBS should not be visible from the street. It is recommended that a sign be attached to the RBS similar to the following: **“DO NOT ALLOW PEOPLE OR PETS TO DRINK WATER FROM YOUR RAIN BARREL!”**

The water collected in your Rain Barrel may be used to:

- Water your flowers, trees, shrubs, and lawn
- Wash your car or pets
- Rinse hands and feet, tools, or muddy boots

Be advised that sediment from the roof and gutter will drain into the Rain Barrel.

#### Dimensions:

The Rain Barrel System should be no higher than 6 feet at the tallest point.

Multiple Rain Barrels may be connected to each other to achieve greater water storage capacity. Overall the RBS should not exceed **TBD\*** capacity.

#### Maintenance:

All RBS equipment should be maintained in good working condition mechanically and structurally as well as in a safe condition at all times.

#### Storm Preparation:

In the event of a tropical storm warning with expected winds or gusts exceeding 40 mph, or a hurricane warning or a tornado warning, the RBS equipment should be disassembled and stored or have extra anchoring secured to the ground sufficient to prevent the equipment or parts of the equipment from becoming airborne.

#### Liability:

By virtue of having the equipment on the homeowner's property, the homeowner accepts full responsibility for any damage to any person or property including common property caused by the equipment or any part of the equipment. The CCE ARB does not assume any liability for loss or damage for any person or property, including, the house foundation of the homeowner, Rain Barrel System equipment, or any damage caused by the Rain Barrel System. It is strongly recommended that the homeowner include the equipment on his/her property insurance for liability purposes.

**Note: TBD\* = To Be Determined by the ARB and / or Board of Directors.**

#### References:

Rain Barrels: A Homeowners Guide

[https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/sites/default/files/store\\_products/rain\\_barrels\\_guide.pdf](https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/sites/default/files/store_products/rain_barrels_guide.pdf)

Capturing Water with Rain Barrels

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/irrigation/rain-barrels.html>

South West Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) info on Rain Barrels

<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/residents/water-conservation/rain-barrels>

