

Directing Water Into the Barrel

You may want to buy a downspout diverter to direct the downspout flow directly into the rain barrel.

Flex Elbows

- Can buy at a hardware store



Downspout Diverters

- Garden Water Saver

www.gardenwatersaver.com

\$21.95 or \$23.95 + \$9 shipping



- Metal Downspout Diverter

www.rainbarrelsource.com - search for rain diverter



INDIAN SPRINGS POND WATERSHED

RAIN BARRELS

WHAT ARE THEY AND WHY
USE THEM?



Allamakee SWCD

INDIAN SPRINGS POND WATERSHED

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What are rain barrels?

- Barrels that collect and store water from downspouts
- They can be purchased or made
- The water can be used to water lawns and gardens



Water flowing into a homemade rain barrel from a downspout.

Why use rain barrels?

- Have chlorine-free water for watering your lawns and gardens
- Reduce water bills
- Reduce runoff volume on your lawn
- Direct water away from building foundations
- Conserve water
- For large rains, can connect two rain barrels and collect even more water

Indian Springs Pond Watershed Cost-share

If you live in the Indian Springs Pond Watershed, you are eligible for **75% cost-share** on a rain barrel. Rain barrels are something you might not want to spend much money on, but if you can get one for around \$30-40, you would definitely be getting a good value!

Buying Rain Barrels

You can buy rain barrels locally from Cunningham Hardware (Waukon) and Ace Hardware (Decorah) or online at the following websites.

www.rainbarrelsiowa.com/RBI

www.aquabarrel.com

www.northerntool.com

www.midwestinternetsales.com/rainbarrels.htm free shipping

www.acehardware.com free ship to store

Things to look for when buying or making barrels:

- Needs to have screen on top to prevent mosquitoes and other insects from entering the barrel

- Needs to have a tight-fitting lid to prevent animals and children from getting into the barrel
- Elevating the barrel on a sturdy surface, such as cinder blocks, increases water pressure and creates more space under the spigot.

Making Rain Barrels

- Needs to be made from a heavy-duty barrel, not a trash can
- Needs to be UV tolerant (or coated with Krylon UV-resistant spray)
- If you don't like the color, you can buy spray paint for plastics
- Can buy kits with some of the basic hardware at www.growandmake.com/diy-rain-barrel-kit

Instructions on how to make a rain barrel:

http://www.blackstoneriver.org/programs/build_a_rainbarrel.php

<http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=182095>

http://www.cityofbremerton.com/content/sw_makeyourownrainbarrel.html

http://www.westunion.com/iowa/rain_barrel_instructions.html

<http://www.dep.wv.gov/insidedep/>