

RAIN BARRELS: HARVEST WATER, NOT MOSQUITOES

One of the most common problems with rain barrels is mosquito breeding. Rain barrels need to be properly modified and maintained to keep mosquitoes out.



Prevent mosquito breeding with these tips:

- Use collected rain water right away. Empty your rain barrel after a rain event.
- Rain barrel must stay dry between rain events.
- Regularly check and repair any damaged or worn screens, clogged openings, and loose-fitted lids or caps.
- Periodically scrub the inside of the barrel with soap to remove any mosquitoes eggs attached to the inside walls.



How to properly screen and maintain your rain barrel:



1. Downspout

Do not feed the downspout directly into the rain barrel. An air gap is required so that water must pass through the screen of the intake opening.

2. Intake Opening

Always keep the intake opening tightly sealed. Cover with a double layer of fine mesh window screen to keep mosquitoes out.

3. Decorative Top

Some rain barrels have a decorative top. Keep the top of the rain barrel clear of debris, standing water or fill depressions with sand.

4. Overflow Port

This opening helps keep water from filling above the intake screen but if left open it creates an access point for mosquitoes. Secure with two layers of fine mesh screen around the opening.

5. Outflow Port/Valve

Keep valve closed. The outflow valve is two inches away from the bottom of the barrel and when drained, it can still hold water below the valve.

