How To Connect Rain Barrels

- In order to increase your storm water capture capacity, connect rain barrels to each other.
- You can connect as many barrels as you want.
- Use the following as a guide.

Let’s get started

1. Install the first rain barrel.
   - Use TreePeople’s How To Install A Rain Barrel guide for initial installation.

2. Place additional rain barrels.
   - Place additional rain barrels in line with first installed barrel.
   - All the barrels should be at the same level.

3. Attach Y-splitters onto the barrel hose bibs on the lower portion of each rain barrel.

4. Prepare hoses to connect the barrels.
   - Use a tape measure to determine the distance between the Y-splitters.
   - Add 6 inches to the length measured and cut the hose to this length.
   - Slide clamp onto hose end, insert female hose fitting, and secure the clamp.

You’ll need the following:

- Heavy duty scissors
- Screw driver
- Tape measure
- Safety glasses
- Hose
- Cinder blocks
- Rain barrels
- 1 ¾” hose thread
- Y splitter for each barrel
- 2 ¼” female mender kit for each barrel (1 only for end barrels)

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5. Attach hoses to the Y-splitters on each barrel to connect them.
   • Attach a hose to each Y-splitter hose bib, except for the ones on the end of the barrel line up.
   • Set the interior valves to the open position.
   • Set the two exterior valves to the closed position, except when accessing the water. You can connect your garden hose to these Y-splitters to use the water.

6. Do a test run.
   • Use a water hose to run water through gutters and into the rain barrel.
   • Check to ensure all fittings are tight and no water is leaking.
   • As water flows into the initial barrel it will be evenly distributed to the connected barrels.
   • As water is used, it will drain evenly between the barrels.

7. Secure the rain barrels with metal/all-weather earthquake straps.
   • Use anchors and screws to secure to the side of house/building.

8. Add a hose for overflow.
   • Attach a hose to the upper hose bib located near the top of the barrel, on one of the end barrels.
   • The upper hose bib on the other barrels should remain capped.
   • This outlet is for any overflow during a heavy rain event that fills the barrels.
   • Direct the overflow hose into a permeable garden area.