



Board of Water Supply

## RAIN BARREL PLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

### PLACEMENT

- Identify the areas in your landscape that use the most water.
- Locate gutter downspouts, or if you don't have gutters, locate where the most water falls off the rooftop.
- This will help determine the ideal place to set up your rain barrel.
- Keep in mind that this is a gravity flow system and you will not be able to use the captured water on areas higher than the rain barrel, unless you haul it by buckets. The water will flow only if the end of the hose is lower than the height of the water in the barrel.
- Another thing to keep in mind is 1 gallon of water is 8.3 lbs. The 55-gallon barrels, when full, will be over 400lbs! Make sure the barrels are on sturdy, level surfaces.



*These rain barrels have an overflow near the top. The hose for the overflow can either be directed towards your yard or into another barrel.*



### MULTIPLE BARRELS (WITHOUT DRILLING)

- Cut a section of hose so each end will rest near the bottom of the barrel.
- Fill hose with water and plug the ends.
- Place one end underwater in the barrel with more water and the other end in another barrel. Unplug both ends at the same time. This will create a siphon to distribute the water evenly through all the barrels. This works for barrels that are placed on the same level. If one of the barrels is lower, that one will have more water than the others and will overflow before the higher barrels fill completely.

## **MAINTENANCE**

- ☛ Place window screen over open areas to prevent mosquito breeding. Fish can be used in the barrel to control mosquito larva, but you need to put a screen before the hose connection to prevent the fish from being sucked out.
- ☛ The surface of the barrel can be painted to match your house color or what ever design you want. If you have the white barrels, painting will help block sunlight and reduce algae build up in the barrel.
- ☛ During dry periods when there is little water in the barrels, empty the barrels, clean the inside and allow it to dry out for a few days.

## **Different set ups to capture water**



For frequently asked questions and to learn how to make your very own rain barrel, please visit our website here: <http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/cssweb/display.cfm?sid=2091>

For a schedule of rain barrel water catchment and other workshops at the Halawa Xeriscape Garden, please visit our website here: <http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/cssweb/display.cfm?sid=2066>