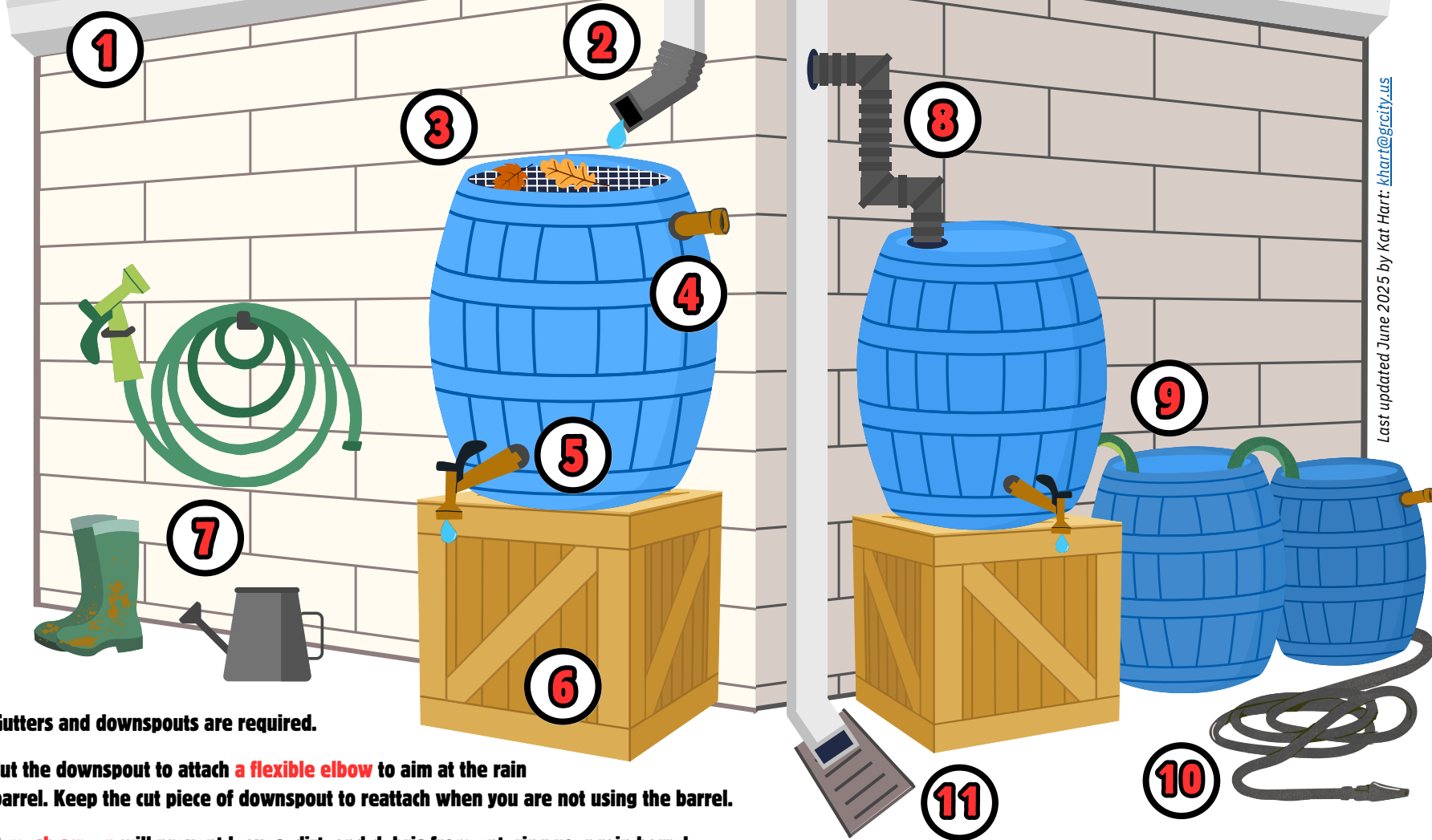


How to Set Up a Rain Barrel at Home

by the GR Office of Sustainability



Last updated June 2025 by Kat Hart: khart@grcity.us

- 1.** Gutters and downspouts are required.
- 2.** Cut the downspout to attach a **flexible elbow** to aim at the rain barrel. Keep the cut piece of downspout to reattach when you are not using the barrel.
- 3.** A **mesh screen** will prevent leaves, dirt, and debris from entering your rain barrel.
- 4.** An **outlet** is installed **near the top** of the barrel for overflow or to connect other barrels.
- 5.** A **spigot** is installed **near the bottom** of the barrel to empty the water. **Do not drink it.**
- 6.** A sturdy base is required to lift your barrel **by 2 - 3 feet** for better water pressure.
- 7.** You can use your water for your plants, cleaning outdoor gear, or filling bird baths.

- 8.** A **diverter kit** can be purchased to add a **flexible tube** directly into your barrel while keeping your downspout intact. The full diverter kits are about \$30- \$50.
- 9.** Multiple barrels can be connected in sequence for large rooftops.
- 10.** Use a **soaker hose** when you are away from home or expect a large rain.
- 11.** When not using your barrel, use a **splash block** at the end of your downspout.

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