



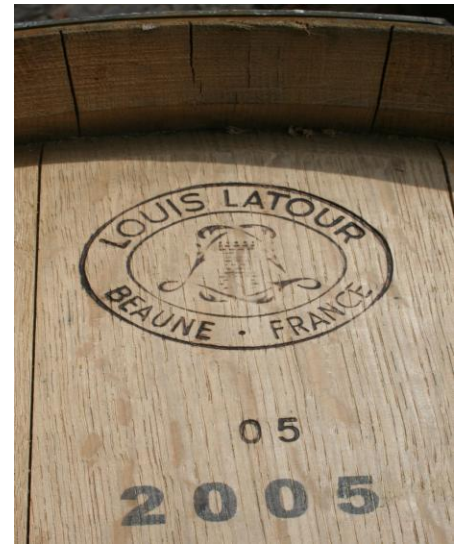
Sustain Your Place on Earth

Oak Rain Barrels

from



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS



FAQs

- 1. How much water does my barrel hold?** These are 60-gallon (228-liter) barrels. (In a previous life these French Oak barrels were used to age white wines at a Sonoma Coast winery in northern California.)
- 2. How much rain will it take to fill my barrel?** That's a function of how much roof is draining into the barrel. 500 square feet of roof will collect approximately 300 gallons per inch of rainfall!
- 3. Do I need to treat the exterior of my barrel?** There's no need to, as the French Oak will age naturally to a silvery gray color, darkening over time, and will stand up to the elements for many years. That being said, it *may* extend the life of the barrel a bit, and it *will* maintain the original color better, if the sides and top are treated (with a deck stain or marine polyurethane, for example).
- 4. How should I set my barrel up?** There are several simple steps:
 - a. Set the barrel up on a platform of your choosing/design (with blocks, bricks, stone, treated wood, whatever you choose),** so that the bottom spigot is a suitable height off the ground, and so that the bottom of the barrel is not in (or near) contact with the soil, which would lead to premature rotting of the bottom of the barrel.
 - b. Direct rainwater into the top inlet by cutting/re-directing your downspout, or with use of a rain chain.**
 - c. Optional: connect multiple barrels in series by running a hose from the top/side overflow fitting of one barrel to the next**
 - d. Optional: direct overflow away from the barrel (and, more importantly, your home's foundation) by connecting a hose to the top/side overflow fitting.**
- 5. What should I do with my barrel during the winter?** Before the long freeze begins in November or so, drain your barrel completely, and make sure that no melt-water or rain re-fills the barrel (e.g. re-direct the downspout and/or move the barrel and/or cover the opening. **This is VERY IMPORTANT!!!! Failure to follow these simple steps will very likely lead to the premature demise of your barrel – the top and/or bottom is likely to warp and split when water freezes.**
- 6. Should I bring my barrel indoors during the winter? No!** If your barrel is kept empty in a warm, dry space for a long period of time, the oak staves will shrink, and your barrel may never be water-tight again! (This should not be an issue if you choose to move your barrel into a cold garage for the winter. **Just don't keep it somewhere warm and dry!**)
- 7. My barrel seems to be leaking a bit. What should I do?!?** Not to worry. Wood barrels will occasionally leak a bit, especially if you've been through a long, dry period where the barrel was not full of water. Once it fills up again, the staves should swell and seal any minor leaks.