



Water stewardship: Make a water butt

As we all make a conscious effort to protect the environment and our natural resources, a water butt, which harvests rainwater, is a great way to reduce water usage at home. As well as being free it won't leave limescale deposits or increase the alkalinity of the soil like mains hard water. This water butt is simple to set up but you may need some help with the fixtures and will need to get permission from the home owner before installing.

What to do

- Choose an area outside of your home that is near to a rain catching drainpipe. This could be a greenhouse too if it has guttering fixed to it
- If you are attaching a tap to your water butt you will need to create a stand for your water butt to lift it off the ground. You could use old concrete slabs, bricks or wood but make sure the support is stable and safe
- Position the bin in place and fit a connector to your existing fall pipes so that rainwater is diverted to the water butt
- A tap positioned toward the bottom of the water butt will make it easy to distribute and access the water. Alternatively just dip your watering can into the top of the water butt to fill it



Resources:

- Old plastic bin with lid
- Concrete slabs, old bricks or wood to build a stand
- Tubing
- Tap
- Overflow pipe
- Connection to the fall or down pipe

Individual or group activity

Top Tips

- Fit an overflow pipe to take any excess water well away from the building if you do not have a nearby drain
- Check that the overflow pipe and tubing are free from blockages