

Winterizing Rain Barrels



Thank you to all of the participants of our Rain Barrel Workshops! In 2009 you have built almost 100 rain barrels! I have truly enjoyed hearing the excitement from new rain barrel owners the first time the rain fills their barrel.

However, the rain barrel season has come to an end. It is now time to prepare your barrels for winter so they will be ready to go next spring.

STORING WATER IN YOUR RAIN BARREL DURING FREEZING WEATHER WILL CAUSE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE.

Instructions for winterizing your rain barrel:

Empty all the water from the rain barrel at the end of the growing season or after the first frost.

- **Option 1:** If you are able to bring the barrel inside, that's great.
- **Option 2:** If it is to remain outside, at a minimum, remove the hose and turn your rain barrel upside-down.
- **Option 3:** If it is to remain outside and upright, you can add a little bit of RV or Marine antifreeze (NOT car antifreeze) to any remaining water. It must contain propylene glycol (not ethylene glycol) which is not toxic. Run a little bit of the antifreeze solution through the spigot to avoid freezing and cracking. Make sure that no additional water can get into your barrel.
- **Reconnect your downspout to the gutter system and bypass the rain barrel completely.** It is extremely important to make sure that the water from your roof will be directed away from your foundation!



I look forward to holding many more workshops beginning in February or March of 2010. For those of you on my waiting list- I haven't forgotten about you. I'll contact you early next year! Look for us at the Home Resource Fair on in early 2010. As always, if you have any questions about rain barrels or other surface water issues, please contact Stacy Gilmore – sgilmore@oneidanation.org or 920-496-5325.