Rain Barrel Components include:
1) Leaf & mosquito filter basket  
2) T-shaped adapter & overflow hose  
3) Spigot assembly (shut-off valve)  
4) Flexible Elbow

Installation Instructions: Read all instructions completely before beginning the installation process.

1) Ensure the ground beneath the rain barrel is firm and level. Consider using a patio stone as a base.
2) Using a hacksaw, cut the downspout 4 to 6 inches above the top of the barrel. The downspout may be able to be cut without even removing it from the wall, however, take care not to damage the wall by sliding wood or cardboard in behind. Tin snips may be used to finish the cut if the downspout is secured too tightly to the wall.
3) Install the flexible elbow onto the cut downspout to redirect water into the top of the rain barrel.
4) Keep the remaining portion of the cut downspout so that it may be reconnected when the rain barrel is winterized.
5) Run the overflow hose into a nearby garden away from windows and foundations.

Operating Instructions: Position the rain barrel filter basket directly under a downspout. Some homeowners prefer to elevate their rain barrel by placing it on a stand to gain additional pressure resulting from gravity. One end of the T-shaped overflow adaptor is closed and can be removed with a hacksaw to allow a second rain barrel to be connected in series. A garden hose can be connected directly to the shut-off valve or directly to the barrel after removing the shut-off valve.

Maintenance: Maintenance includes clearing debris from the filter basket on occasion. Before winter, the rain barrel should be disconnected, emptied, the shut-off valve should be removed and the rain barrel should be rinsed with a garden hose. Storage indoors is recommended, but if left outside it must be turned upside down to prevent water accumulation. As water freezes, it expands and could seriously damage the rain barrel, overflow hose and shut-off valve and void the warranty.

Warranty: A one year, rain barrel repair or replacement warranty is offered against manufacturer defects under normal use from the date of delivery. Caution: Expanding ice will damage a rain barrel and void the warranty. Disconnect all hoses, remove the spigot and empty the rain barrel before temperatures drop below freezing.

Caution: Do not drink rainwater as it may contain bacteria and other contaminants. Rainwater is intended for use in watering plants, lawns, trees and vegetables. Some rain barrels have removable lids and can pose a drowning hazard for small children and animals. Always keep the lid secured to the barrel and keep the filter basket in place to prevent mosquitoes from breeding and spreading viruses. Clear any pooling / standing water. If the filter basket screen is damaged, replace it immediately.

Disclaimer: With proper installation, maintenance and use, your rain barrel should function properly. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and the manufacturer assume no liability for the installation, maintenance or use of your rain barrel. We are not responsible for any rain barrel malfunction; property damage or injury associated with your rain barrel malfunction; property damage or injury associated with your rain barrel, its accessories or contents.