



## **Winterizing Your Rain Barrel**

Over the winter, the freezing and thawing of water in the barrel can cause cracking. The safest option to avoid damage is to disconnect the rain barrel for the winter. However, Camel's Hump rain barrels have the durability and an underdrain to allow your barrel to stay connected through the winter.

### **Disconnecting Your Rain Barrel Over the Winter**

1. Disconnect the rain barrel from the gutter downspout
2. Empty barrel of all water. Make sure to drain the water from attached hoses as well. This will avoid any left over water from freezing and cracking the barrel.
3. Clean the inside of the barrel. Over time the use of a rain barrel can collect deposits or residue that need to be cleaned in order to keep the barrel in its best condition. We recommend washing with soapy water and rinsing with vinegar and water.
4. Store your rain barrel in a dry place like a shed or garage. If you don't have room, turn the barrel up side down and cover it with a tarp so that it does not collect any water or acquire weather damage.
5. During the winter, you should reconnect the gutter downspout. Make sure this is positioned away from the house to avoid any flooding around the foundation. Winter reconnection directions can be seen at the end of the [Rutgers Installation video](#).

### **Staying Connected Over the Winter**

Not all rain barrels are created equal. TTF's Camel's hump barrels are durable and include a lower outflow to drain water from the barrel. Many Camel's Hump rain barrel owners chose to leave their rain barrels outside over the winter.

If you chose to keep your rain barrel connected, water must be constantly drained from the barrel. To do this, open the drain on the front of the barrel under the spigot. Attach a hose or include a splash plate to divert water from the foundation of your home. This will allow rainwater to drain from the barrel as it fills, releasing water before it can freeze and thaw.



Remove cap, attach hose or use splash guard to keep water from home foundation