

Buyer's Guide / Water butts

Make rainwater work for you



A water butt could save you a fortune on water bills!

IF THERE'S one thing you can guarantee about the British weather from autumn until spring - it will be wet! That's great for gardens and gardeners, unless it becomes torrential and leads to waterlogging.

Rainwater is the most natural form of water for plants and many plants will grow better with rainwater than tap water. This is especially true of ericaceous and other lime-hating plants and in areas where the tap water is chalky and contains lime. Rainwater is also good for gardeners, who look on with horror as their water meter clocks up huge costs when using tap water in the garden!

That's why it makes a lot of sense to

collect and make as much use of rain as you can - and that's why you need a water butt to collect it in.

Where space is limited, a slim water butt may be necessary and if you only want your water butt for certain times of the year, folding it away in summer, for example, then you could go for a collapsible model.

And a water butt needn't be condemned to the bottom of the garden, attractive, ornamental ones are available and can even make a garden feature.

All the water butts I looked at came with a tap and tight-fitting lid. A lid is vital to help keep the water fresh and clear of algae and other nasties. It will also keep out insects - like

mosquitoes, which will breed like mad in stagnant water. A couple had a hose connector tap, which allow you to use any standard hose fitting to connect the tap to a hosepipe.

There are also some essential accessories you should consider for your water butt. A stand will keep it off the ground, so it is much easier to get a watering can under the tap. A water diverter kit plumbs directly into your house, garage, shed or greenhouse downpipes, making water collection even simpler.

You can buy some water butts on their own or as part of a kit, which usually includes a stand and rainwater diverter kit.

Garantia Square rain butt

A quality, large water butt with plenty of capacity for all that rainfall - 22 2-gallon watering cans full, in fact.

Capacity: 203-litres (44 gallons)
Size 67cmx67cmx79cm high (26x26x31in); 112cm (44in) high with stand
Accessories Stand; rainwater diverter kit
Price guide £24.95; stand £15.95; rainwater diverter kit £9.95
Supplied by Combined Harvesters

Harcostar Space Sava water butt

Lots of great features, making it very versatile and easy to use, especially for connecting up the rain diverter.

Capacity 100-litres (22 gallons)
Size 38cmx38cmx93cm high (15x15x36½in); 122cm (48in) high with stand
Accessories Stand; rainwater diverter kit
Features Hose connector tap; holes drilled and plugged ready for connection to rainwater diverter kit or other waterbutts
Price guide £32.95; £46.90 with stand and diverter kit
Supplied by Harrod Horticultural

Stewart 100 Litre Mini Rainsaver kit

This is the same water butt as the Harcostar one, except the connection holes haven't been pre-drilled and plugged.

Capacity 100-litres (22 gallons)
Size 38cmx38cmx93cm high (15x15x36½in); 123cm (48½in) high with stand
Accessories Stand; rainwater diverter kit
Features Hose connector tap
Price guide £44.99 complete with stand and diverter kit

Sankey Slim Space Saving water butt

It's useful having the option of different rainwater diverter hose lengths, making it more versatile in positioning near the downpipe.

Capacity 100-litres (22 gallons)
Size 37cmx37cmx92cm high (14½x14½x36¼in); 122cm (48in) high with stand
Accessories Stand; rainwater diverter kit
Price guide £24.99; stand £9.99; rainwater diverter £9.99 for 0.5m (1ft 8in) or £12.99 for 3m (9ft 10in)

Sankey Beehive water butt

One of several ornamental and attractive water butts from Sankey that don't need to be hidden at the bottom of the garden!

Capacity 150-litres (33 gallons)
Size 59cm (23½in) maximum diameter x 78cm (30½in) high; 106cm (41½in) high with stand
Accessories Stand; rainwater diverter kit
Price guide £79.99; stand £29.99; rainwater diverter £9.99 for 0.5m (1ft 8in) or £12.99 for 3m (9ft 10in)



Ward Slim Space Saver water butt

Great value for money - buy several and save yourself lots of water - and money on your water bill!

Capacity 100-litres (22 gallons)
Size 36cmx32cmx94cm high (14½x12½x37in); 122cm (48in) with stand
Accessories Stand; rainwater diverter kit
Price guide £19.99; £29.99 kit with stand and diverter kit



WIN OUR 'BEST BUY' WATER BUTT KIT

WE HAVE six of the Best Buy Ward water butt kits (water butt, stand and rainwater diverter) to give away! Send your name and address to Garden News Water Butt Giveaway, PO Box 57, Coates, Peterborough, PE7 2FE or enter online at www.greatcompetitions.co.uk Closing date is October 25. Write 'do not contact' if you don't want to be contacted by us or by carefully selected partner organisations.

Collapsible water butts

Botanico collapsible water butt

A very versatile and adaptable water butt. I can see lots of uses for it - including in emergencies.

Capacity 100-litres (22 gallons)
Size 40cm diameter x 90cm high (16x36in)
Features Folds flat for easy storage; zipped lid; hose connector tap; flexible overflow pipe; debris filter
Price guide £39.99



Gardman Fold Flat water butt

Just like the Botanico water butt, this is very versatile, although it takes up more room.

Capacity 170-litres (37 gallons)
Size 60cm diameter x 60cm high (24x24in)
Features Folds flat for easy storage; zipped lid; hose connector tap
Price guide £29.99



Suppliers

Botanico
 01905 791984
www.botanicogarden.co.uk
 Supplies direct to garden centres & stores
Combined Harvesters
 0151 639 0880
www.combinedharvesters.co.uk
Garantia
 01795 432700
www.garantia.co.uk
Gardman
 01406 372227
www.gardman.co.uk

Supplies direct to garden centres & stores.

Harrod Horticultural
 08454 402 5300
www.harrodhorticultural.com
Sankey Home & Garden Products
 01159 277335
www.rsankey.com
The Stewart Company
 020 8603 5700
www.stewartcompany.co.uk
Ward by Strata Products
 01773 510520
www.strataproducts.co.uk

Country Living Magazine Fairs ticket giveaway



The Country Living Magazine Christmas Fairs take place in London and Scotland in November. The events put the merry into Christmas, and are sure to get you into the mood for the yuletide celebrations. From stocking fillers to decorations, tasty treats and party accessories, the Country Living Christmas Fairs have something for all. In addition to presents and festive fare, take home tips from the experts to make distinctive wreaths, hand-made cards and

transform your parcels with beautiful gift-wrapping. There are 12 days of Christmas to enjoy and you can prepare for all of them with one visit to a Country Living Christmas Fair. London at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 from November 9-13, 2011. Glasgow at the SECC, Glasgow G3 8YW from November 17-20, 2011. Garden News readers can take advantage of reduced price tickets - saving over 25 per cent.

GN tickets for London cost £11.50 (instead of £16 on the door). Quote: CLXL2 online at www.countrylivingfair.com/xmas/tickets. GN tickets for Glasgow cost £8.50 (instead of £12 on the door). Quote: CLXS2 online at www.countrylivingfair.com/scotland/tickets. Tickets must be booked no later than 1pm on the day before the due visit. Tel: 0844 848 0160; visit www.countrylivingfair.com for more details.

We have 10 pairs of tickets to give away - five pairs for London and five pairs for Scotland. For a chance to win, send your name, address and preferred show on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope to: Garden News Country Living Giveaway, PO Box 57, Coates, Peterborough PE7 2FE or enter online at www.greatcompetitions.co.uk The closing date is October 18.

This prize draw is open to residents of the UK only, aged 18 years or over, except employees of

Bauer Consumer Media Ltd or anyone else professionally associated with the prize draw/competition. All prizes are non-transferable and there are no cash alternatives.

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