**SUGGESTED MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maintenance Task</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweep out gutters</td>
<td>every 3 mo. or as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspect and clean filters/screens; replace as necessary</td>
<td>every 3 mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspect valves and check for micro-leaks</td>
<td>every 12 mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean barrels</td>
<td>only if water quality declines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your BlueBarrel Rainwater Catchment System contains non-treated, non-pressurized water. Treatment units, pumps, and controls may be added or plumbed into your system. Inspect and maintain any treatment units, pumps, and controls according to the manufacturer’s instructions. List product information for any elements you add to your BlueBarrel System here (add additional sheets if necessary):

_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

This BlueBarrel System™ was installed on (date)___________ by:

__________________________________________________________________________
Name                              Company
__________________________________________________________________________
Phone                             Email                              Website

This BlueBarrel System includes ______ barrels with an approximate storage capacity of _______ (number of barrels x 55) gallons.

Notes:

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**SYSTEM OPERATION**

Once your BlueBarrel Rainwater Catchment System™ is installed it will fill automatically as rain falls on your catchment surface. The system will overflow through the original course of your downspout if you installed BlueBarrel’s standard downspout diverter per our instructions, with the inlet hose level.

Turn the handle on your spigot or drain valve in a counter-clockwise direction to release stored water. Turn handles clockwise to stop the flow of water.

Keep spigots and other outlets completely closed when not in use.

Use isolation valves to hold water in some barrels while draining others, or to prevent water from entering parts of your BlueBarrel System. Isolation valves are closed when the handle crosses the plumbing mainline at a perpendicular. Keep isolation valves open (with handle parallel or “in-line” with the plumbing mainline) at all times, unless you choose to isolate barrels. Reasons for isolating barrels may include:

- **If you need to cut into your plumbing** to add new outlets, add more barrels with BlueBarrel’s Add-On Kit, or perform maintenance.
- **If would like to store some rainwater as an emergency backup supply** while also using some for regular non-potable use.

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**EXAMPLE BLUEBARREL SYSTEM**

![Diagram of BlueBarrel System]

1. Downspout Diverter  
2. Vent  
3. Isolation Valve  
4. Spigot  
5. Drain Valve

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APPROPRIATE USE OF RAINWATER

Untreated stored rainwater is NON-POTABLE. Acceptable uses for untreated rainwater include garden irrigation, car washing, and rinsing outdoor wares. Rainwater can be treated for drinking in an emergency. Visit your local outdoor supplier or sporting goods store to purchase treatment tablets, drops, lights and/or filters if you wish to drink your stored water in the case of an emergency.

IMPORTANT: Do not tie your BlueBarrel System into any potable waterlines unless you have obtained a permit to do so. Untreated rainwater is non-potable and connecting to potable lines (even outdoor lines used only for irrigation) creates an unsafe cross-connection.

SEASONALITY & WEATHERIZATION

Follow local protocols for seasonal weatherization of your BlueBarrel System. Treat your system's plumbing the same as any outdoor plumbing in your climate zone. In general, PVC plumbing will tolerate light intermittent freezes. Open the drain valve very slightly to create a slow-drip on extraordinarily cold nights if your pipes are not insulated. (Water will not freeze if it’s moving!) Piping may need to be insulated in climates with consistently colder weather. In areas that experience deep freezes, it is best to drain your BlueBarrel System and detach it from your downspout during the coldest months of the year. (See System Shut-Down for details on disconnecting your system.) Don’t forget to reattach it after the danger of deep freeze has passed!

SYSTEM SHUT-DOWN

To disconnect your system and prevent it from collecting roofwater, simply remove the diverter head from the downspout and use a Winter Cover (available as an accessory at BlueBarrelSystems.com/Online-Store) to restore the downspout. Cover the inlet hole in your barrel with a plug or insect netting so that nothing enters your barrels while they are disconnected.

FIRST FLUSH

The first flush of rain that comes off your rooftop after the dry season will carry the heaviest load of sediments. To keep the water in your tanks as clean as possible you may choose to detach your inlet hose during the dry season, and wait until after the first light rainfall passes to reattach it. (See System Shut-Down for details on disconnecting your downspout.)

GUTTERS

Clean gutters regularly or use a reliable gutter guard. The most important times to clean your gutters are at the end of your dry season before the first rain, and after seasonal leaf-fall.

MOVING, DISASSEMBLING & REASSEMBLING

Your BlueBarrel System can be disassembled for moving by disconnecting the union under each barrel. Discharge stored water through the primary outlets before disconnecting unions, using a hose to direct the water to a place where it can reach a storm drain or infiltrate safely into the soil.

IMPORTANT: Do not attempt to move full barrels from their foundation towers. A full barrel weighs about 500 lbs. and is not safe to move without appropriate machinery. Drain barrels before moving.

BARREL CLEAN-OUT

Barrels will develop a “biofilm” around the interior surface, but this is actually a healthy thing! Studies show that biofilm hosts a beneficial biology that helps maintain water quality. For this reason, it is not recommended that you scrub your barrels out after your system is installed unless you feel there is a particular need to do so.

For an environmentally-friendly clean-out, try a solution of 2 teaspoons castile soap and 2 teaspoons white vinegar per gallon of rinse-water. Swish the solution around inside empty barrels. Use a pressure-nozzle through the bungs to help remove residue from the barrel interior. If you suspect more noxious elements have entered your system, use a diluted chlorine bleach solution.

SHOCK CHLORINATION TREATMENT

Stored rainwater should be colorless and odorless. Slight coloration is not necessarily a concern, but if you are bothered by the color or odor of your water, you can administer a shock chlorination treatment. Pour 2 tablespoons (up to 1/4 cup maximum) of chlorine bleach through the vent hole of each barrel. Agitate barrels gently to mix. Do not use your stored water for 24 hours after adding bleach. After 24 hours, or when there is no residual smell of bleach, water is safe to apply to the landscape. If water smells of bleach let it sit until the odor is undetectable before applying to the landscape.

(continued on reverse…)