Maintaining your Ivy Rain Barrel®

What do I need to know about maintaining my Ivy Rain Barrel?
Ivy requires very little maintenance. Keep the lid locked and the screen clear of debris. If stagnant water sitting in Ivy develops a smell, you may want to drain and clean the inside with a brush and fresh water. To clean the screen simply pop out the screen ring, carefully lift the dirty screen out and clean with fresh water. Place screen back onto inlet and snap ring into place. If your screen is damaged use the round screen as a template and cut a new one.

Make sure all components that come with Ivy (overflow hose, overflow cap, lid, zip ties, screen and screen ring) are kept in place and in good working order. This will ensure your rain barrel does not become a haven for mosquitoes.

How do we winterize our Ivy?
This is for climates with extended periods of sub freezing temperatures. Drain Ivy before temperatures drop below freezing. Keep a hose attached to the open ball valve making sure it is flowing away from your home this will keep water from accumulating in Ivy and freezing. Ivy will most likely survive a freeze but she is not designed to go through multiple freeze-thaw cycles. Cooler climates should remove Ivy from the downspout and store in a covered area, reattach your cut downspout and place elbow at bottom.

What if I do not use all my rainwater?
If you are having trouble using all of your rainwater, you can attach a hose to Ivy’s valve, extend it to your planting bed then attach a soaker hose that will allow for drip irrigation. With this design, Ivy is filling and dripping and your plants are thriving!

Most everything that comes with Ivy can be replaced at any home improvement store. We are happy to sell replacement screens and screen rings, you can also use the screen on the lid as a template and cut a new one from extra screening you may already have.

See more at www.rainwatersolutions.com look for the Frequently Asked Questions tab.