

How to Build a Rain Barrel

Cuts:

- 1) Using the 1.5 inch hole saw, cut a hole centered 2.5 inches off the bottom of the barrel.
- 2) Using the 4 inch hole saw, cut a hole on top of the barrel through the plug opposite 1).
- 3) Optional- Using the 2 inch hole saw, cut a hole 4 inches from the top on either side for the overflow fitting.



Fittings:

- 1) Attach inside of tank bung to end of yard stick wrapped in duct tape. Insert into bottom hole then tighten fitting securely
- 2) Fit threaded nipple, threaded ball valve, and brass hose adapter into tank bung.
- 3) Place fiberglass screen over PVC reducer and stretch by tightening hose clamp; trim excess.
*Insert into 4 inch hole on top of barrel
- 4) Optional- Insert and tighten trap adapter with rubber washer into cut overflow hole



Supplies

- 55 gal Barrel
- 1/2" Heavy Duty Drill
- Hole Saws (4" and 1.5")*
- Tape Measure
- 2" Crescent Wrench
- Yard Stick w/ Duct Tape
- 3/4" Tank Bung
- 3/4" Threaded Nipple
- 3/4" Threaded Ball Valve
- 3/4" Brass Hose Adapter
- 3"-4" PVC reducer
- 6"x6" Fiberglass screen
- 3"-5" Hose Clamp

Optional:

- 1.5" Overflow (Trap Adapter,
- 2" Hole Saw*
- *Can use jigsaw

Maintenance, Installation, Benefits & Tips

Maintenance:

If the barrel is properly installed it should require little maintenance.

Algae:

Your barrel will require periodic treatment to inhibit algae growth. Simply add $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of bleach when barrel is full to kill algae. Wait 2 days to use water.

Mosquitoes:

As long as the filter assemble is in place, no mosquitoes should be able to enter the barrel.

Trash:

Debris such as leaves and grass clippings will won't be able to enter the barrel if the filter is in place. Periodically rinse the barrel to remove any sediment.

Winter Weather:

Either remove the hose and open the valve or remove the barrel and reattach a downspout of previous length.

Installation:

- 1) Place 3 concrete blocks on stable level ground where the barrel will sit.
- 2) Measure the height of the barrel plus filter assembly adding 7" to the total to determine downspout height.
- 3) Using the measurement from above, cut existing downspout and reinsert downspout elbow.
- 4) Adjust height of downspout elbow so it rests within 0.5" of filter assembly. Screw back in place.

Contact Information

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Benefits:

Collecting rainwater is FREE!

There are no added costs to you monthly water bill, it actually offsets them!

Rainwater is naturally soft, meaning it contains no minerals or chemicals that inhibit plant growth.

Collecting rainwater reduces storm-water runoff into creeks and streams.

Use it to:

Water the garden

Water indoor plants

Clean garden tools

Tips:

- Do NOT drink the water in the barrel. It is non-potable.
- Increase water pressure by elevating the barrel.
- Keep barrel covered at all times. It is a drowning hazard.
- Take care the barrel is very heavy when it is full.



SWIFT CURRENT CREEK
Watershed Stewards