

# YOU CAN Capture Rainwater to Use Later

## RAIN BARREL



**DESCRIPTION:** A barrel or underground tank (cistern) can capture rainwater from a roof and store it for later use, such as watering plants or gardens.



**TIME/COMPLEXITY:** 4 hours, easy



**COST:** minimal



**TOOLS:**

Electric drill

3/4 inch spade bit

Jigsaw and blades for cutting plastic

Caulking gun

Flat blade screw driver (required for straight hose barb and clamp)

**MATERIALS:**

40 gal plastic food barrel (or other HEAVY duty plastic barrel from NON-toxic liquid transport)

3-4 feet of 1/2 inch interior diameter plastic hose

(1) spigot (brass preferred) OR (1) standard threaded boiler tap

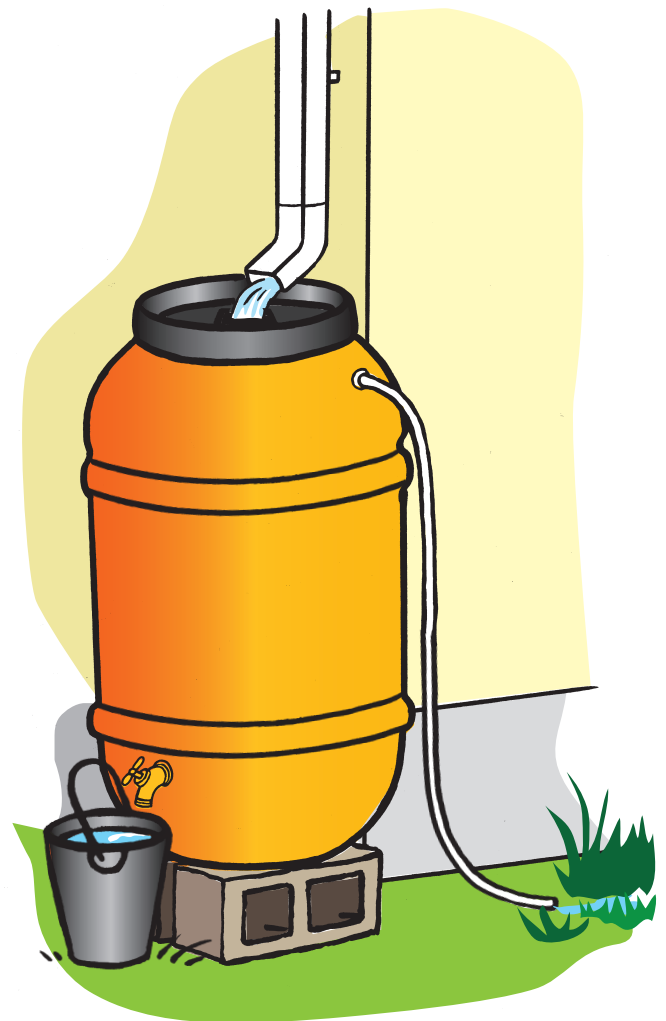
(1) 6 inch square of fiberglass screen

(2) 1/2 inch conduit lock nuts (electrical box connectors)

(3) 3/4 to 1/2 inch reducing washers (electric)

(1) 1/2 to 1/2 inch nylon L-shaped hose barb adaptor OR

(1) straight hose barb adapter and (1) metal hose clamp  
Clear or white silicone caulking



### TEN EASY STEPS to make a Rain Barrel

1. Buy or find a barrel, heavy duty, preferably one used to transport non-toxic liquids or buy an extra heavy duty plastic garbage can.
2. Wash used barrel with non-toxic soap or degreaser. A do-it-yourself car wash works well.
3. Using a 3/4 inch spade bit, drill one hole into the barrel for the spigot near the bottom of the barrel, if the barrel is to be set on a block, or 12 to 15 inches from the bottom, to allow for a bucket or water can to fit beneath it.
4. Place caulking on the inside and outside of the hole.
5. Place a washer on the spigot threads and insert through the hole on the outside of the barrel.
6. Tighten a washer and a locknut on the inside of the barrel, onto the threads of the spigot.
7. Drill another hole using the 3/4 inch spade bit into the side of the barrel near the top of the barrel (6 inches from the top rim is recommended). This will be an overflow.
8. Spread caulking around the inside and outside of this hole. Place the hose connector into the hole with the threads to the inside (the barbs will be to the outside). Place a washer and a locknut on the threads on the inside of the barrel and tighten. Add the overflow hose to the connector with a hose clamp.
9. Drill four holes in the lid of the barrel in a square pattern, and use the jigsaw to cut out the square.
10. Place caulking around the hole on the top of the barrel and press the piece of fiberglass screen firmly into place over the caulking. This will allow downspout water into the barrel, yet **keep mosquitoes out**. Allow caulking to dry 24 hours before using the rain barrel.

## How to Hook Up Your Rain Barrel



1 Prepare a solid base.



2 Cut off an existing downspout above the barrel.



3 Attach a flexible extender or elbow.



4 Direct the overflow hose to the landscape bed.



5 This set up allows the downspout to be re-attached, and the barrel stored in winter.

### FOUR Important Things To Remember

1. Water collected in this barrel is NOT suitable for human consumption, but great for watering gardens, washing cars, etc.
2. A full barrel can weigh more than 330 pounds! A barrel should be set on solid ground or on a well-supported structure.
3. **DO NOT** allow water to freeze in the rain barrel, or the barrel may split. Store it empty or inside during the winter.
4. **LOCATION:** a rain barrel should be located below a source of stormwater runoff like a down spout, slightly elevated on a level and solid base to allow gravity feed from the hose connection. The overflow hose should be connected to another barrel or to a drip line to a landscape bed.

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