

How to Build and Install a Rain Barrel



What is a Rain Barrel?

A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from your rooftop to use for watering lawns and gardens. Water collected in a rain barrel would normally flow through your downspout, onto a paved surface, and eventually into a storm drain. Storm drains direct water into our local rivers and streams.

Why Use Rain Barrels?

- ◆ **Save \$\$\$!** Lower water and sewage bills by using FREE rainwater.
- ◆ **Reduce the amount of stormwater runoff** entering rivers and streams. Stormwater carries pollutants such as sediment, chemicals, oil, salt and bacteria.
- ◆ **Conserve water** during hot, dry summer months.
- ◆ Storing rainwater for garden and lawn use help **recharge groundwater**.

INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1. Cut holes in Barrel

- ◆ Cut lower drain hole using 1^{1/4} inch bit or hole saw. The hole should be on the side of the barrel no more than 2 to 4 inches from the bottom.
- ◆ Cut upper drain hole according to where you want the overflow to be located (back, rt. side, lft. side, front). Use a 1^{1/2} inch hole saw or paddle bit.
- ◆ Cut top hole for atrium grate in the top, center of the barrel. The hole should be 4 inches. Use a jig saw or 4 inch hole saw.
- ◆ Paint your barrel to cover any blemishes or to compliment your home.

STEP 2. Set up barrel and modify downspout

- ◆ Place barrel on flat, level surface. Use cinder blocks or other sturdy material to raise the barrel off the ground. This will increase water pressure and allow space for a watering can to slide underneath the spigot.
- ◆ Modify your downspout by disconnecting a section or cutting the existing downspout with a hack saw to a height which will allow the barrel to be positioned below. Attach a gutter elbow or use a downspout adapter and 4 inch corrugated pipe to route water into the barrel. *You may want to save the cut piece of downspout to reconnect the gutter during the winter months if you choose to store your barrel.*

STEP 3. Assemble parts

- ◆ Screw the 1x 3/4 inch bushing into the lower drain hole. Unscrew, then wrap tightly with teflon tape and finish with waterproof sealant (required). Screw bushing back in tightly but avoid stripping the hole in the barrel.
- ◆ Immediately screw spigot into bushing in lower drain hole. Teflon tape and waterproof sealant are recommended for this connection. You should hold bushing in place with a pair of pliers while screwing in the spigot to avoid stripping the hole in the barrel.
- ◆ From the inside of the barrel, place the 1^{1/4} inch male threaded coupling through the upper drain hole with threads out. From the outside, screw the 1^{1/4} inch barbed fitting onto the coupling. Use waterproof sealant if desired. Attach 1^{1/4} inch drain line to the upper drain hole and direct away from your home or back into the downspout.
- ◆ Drop atrium into 4 inch hole and line with screen. Secure screen with sealant if desired.
- ◆ Position gutter elbow so that it drains into atrium grate or fit 4 inch corrugated pipe directly onto the atrium.

You're ready to begin catching rain water!

SUPPLIES

Parts

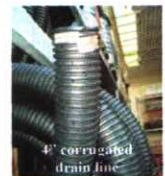
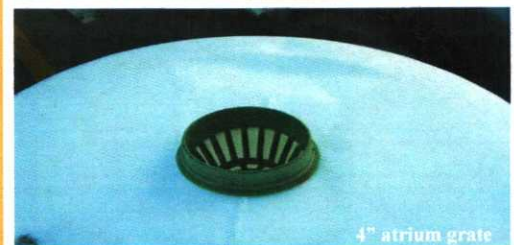
- ◆ A 55-gallon drum or heavy duty trash can
- ◆ One 4" diameter atrium grate
- ◆ One 1" x 3/4" PVC male threaded bushing
- ◆ One 3/4" brass spigot/hose bib
- ◆ 5' (or longer) section of 1^{1/4}" drain hose, drain line, or sump pump line
- ◆ One 1^{1/4}" female barbed fitting
- ◆ One 1^{1/4}" male threaded coupling
- ◆ Fiberglass screen or mosquito netting
- ◆ One gutter elbow or downspout adapter with 4" corrugated drain line.

Tools

- ◆ Drill and hole saw or paddle bit
- ◆ Router or jig saw
- ◆ Hacksaw
- ◆ Pliers

Other

- ◆ Silicon caulking
- ◆ Teflon tape (optional)
- ◆ 1-2 cans spray paint (optional)
- ◆ Cinder blocks or landscaping blocks



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