

MAKE YOUR OWN RAIN BARREL



SUPPLIES*

- Barrel: 55-gallon food grade plastic barrels
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ " hose-bib **OR** $\frac{3}{4}$ " ball valve set up ($\frac{3}{4}$ " x 1" nipple, $\frac{3}{4}$ " ball valve, $\frac{3}{4}$ " hose to pipe adapter)
 - Teflon tape
 - Drill
 - $\frac{7}{8}$ " drill bit **OR** $\frac{7}{8}$ " hole saw mandrel and $\frac{7}{8}$ " carbon hole saw
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ " tap and vice grip (optional): to create threads for the fittings
 - Jigsaw (optional): to cut barrel top
 - Screen (optional): to cover the open areas of the barrel to prevent mosquitoes
- * $\frac{1}{2}$ " fittings may be used in place of $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
Drill bits and threading tool for $\frac{1}{2}$ " fittings will be easier to find.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wash the barrel thoroughly inside and out.
2. Drill a hole near the bottom of the barrel for your fitting. Remember to leave enough space to fill a watering can or connect a watering hose.
3. Use the tap, if available, to create the threads. If one is not available, use a threaded metal pipe to screw into the barrel to create the threads, making sure that it is screwed in straight. Once the hole is threaded, wrap the threads of the hose-bib/nipple from ball valve set up with the Teflon tape and screw in the hole.
4. An optional overflow hose can be added near the top of the barrel to direct excess water away from your house.
5. Connect your gutter to the rain barrel by cutting the downspout above the barrel and use a length of pvc pipe to connect the downspout to one of the existing holes on the top of the barrel. A 3" diameter pvc pipe will fit most gutter systems. If there is no gutter system, an option is to remove the top of the barrel and place it under the eave to catch the runoff from the roof.
6. Once the barrel is set up and if it has an open top, place a section of screen over the top and secure with hose or wire.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. *What kind of maintenance is required for a rain barrel?*

A rain barrel can be kept in perfect condition if you clean and apply a preservative a couple times a season.

Outside: *Automotive Cleaner* - Non toxic - Biodegradable - Ammonia Free - Use this product to remove bug, sap and other outdoor rain barrel stains. *Automotive Preservative* - Sun UV ray protector and preservative that is perfect for rain barrel plastic.

Inside: Visually inspect your barrel from time to time. If leaves or items that may eventually clog your hose bib are present, drain your barrel after pulling it away from the house. Stick a hose in the open down spout hole to flush it out. Also spray through the hose bib opening.

2. *How long does it take to fill a rain barrel?*

One inch of rain on a 1000 square foot rooftop yields 600 gallons of water. To calculate how much rain water your rooftop will produce, multiply the square footage of your roof by 600 and divide by 1000.

3. *How can I get better pressure from my rain barrel?*

You may elect to elevate your rain barrel, but make sure that it is stable and level. If you use blocks, make sure they are set on a firm, level surface. Higher is better, but be very careful because a full barrel can weigh over 400 pounds.

4. *Are there any concerns with using water stored in the rain barrel for watering plants?*

Do not use a rain barrel if you use chemical moss killers, spray a large volume of pesticides or herbicides, have a Zinc anti-moss strip on your roof, or if your roof is made with treated cedar shakes. These products are toxic chemicals that you might not want to store in your rain barrel.

5. *What about mosquitoes?*

We recommend placing a screen at the opening of the barrel. This can reduce large items from getting into the barrel and the potential for mosquitoes to breed.

NOTES:
