

## HOW TO MAKE A RAIN BARREL



### WHY USE A RAIN BARREL?

An average home with a roof size of 1,000 square feet will generate approximately 600 gallons of water from a 1-inch rainfall. Collecting and using this water with rain barrels helps reduce the demand on public and private water supplies, and reduces pollution, flooding, and erosion in local waterways by reducing storm water runoff.

## HOW DO I USE THE WATER?

The water that you collect in your rain barrel can be used to water indoor and outdoor potted plants and landscaped areas, clean off gardening tools, wash your car, and for other non-potable uses.



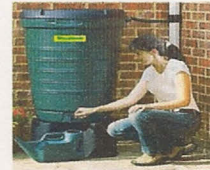
## WHAT DO I NEED TO START?

You'll need the following supplies:

- 55 gallon plastic barrel
- 3/4" copper water faucet
- 1" flat galvanized washer
- 3/4" flat rubber washer
- 3/4" 90 degree galvanized elbow

Tools Needed:

- Saber Saw (optional)
- Hole Saw
- Drill
- 7/8" drill bit/router
- 4' length of 3/4" pipe, copper tubing or broomstick with a threading to attach elbow



## DIRECTIONS

### Bottom:

Drill a 7/8" hole about 1-1/2 to 2 inches from the bottom of the barrel. There should be enough distance between the drilled hole and the barrel's bottom to allow room for attaching a hose after the barrel is completed.

When the faucet is attached to the bottom of the rain barrel at this site, the barrel should be able to sit flat on the ground without the faucet interfering.



Place the 1" galvanized washer and the 3/4" rubber washer over the threaded end of the faucet. From the outside, insert the washer-threaded end through the 7/8" hole at the barrel's bottom. From the inside of the barrel, screw the galvanized elbow to the threaded of the faucet protruding through the hole (note: you will need a broomstick, pipe or other device to extend your reach to the bottom of the barrel). Make sure the unattached end of the elbow is pointing to the bottom of the barrel after being tightened.



Teflon tape can be used throughout the rain barrel hardware assemblies to ensure watertight seals.

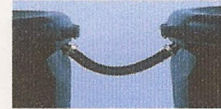
### Top:

The top of the barrel will most likely have a small covered hole that will accommodate the gutter assembly. If there is not a hole, one may be cut into the barrel's top that will accommodate the gutter. If you desire a larger opening, draw a line around the top of the barrel 1/2 to 1 inch in from the rim. Cut along the line with a saw and remove the center piece. The centerpiece may be refitted to the rain barrel with the addition of two wooden blocks affixed to opposing sides which serve as a shelf, or by the use of one affixed block (or jutting screw/post) and an opposing hinge. A handle can be attached to this larger lid for ease of use.



After the bottom fittings have been attached, place the rain barrel in position underneath a downspout gutter. The downspout can be directed to flow water into the hole at the top of the barrel. Various methods can be used to accommodate the water flow, from the heat-moldable rubber worked into a funnel shape to a chain connecting the gutter's down flow to the

Drill a 7/8" hole 2 inches from the top of the barrel for an overflow vent hole. The hole can also be used to connect a second rain barrel. Additional rain barrels can be added to the assembly simply by using a double threaded pipe segment and appropriate hardware. Also, such items as a segment of garden hose and hose clamps can be utilized for the same effect. Use what you have!



### Base:

A base for the rain barrel can be created by simply using cement cinder blocks or another similar setup. It is important to place the rain barrel in a secure site where it will not tip over or roll. Be aware that it is quite possible for a full barrel to freeze, creating a round bottom that will become unbalanced and tip over. The barrel should sit at least 15" off the ground (high end to accommodate a pail underneath the faucet).

### SPECIAL NOTE ON MOSQUITOS:

Mosquito control is very important due to West Nile Virus. If you choose to build your rain barrel with an opening that allows access to mosquitoes, you should take proper measures to ensure that they do not breed.