

◆ Making a Rain Barrel to Recycle Rainwater ◆

What is a Rain Barrel?

A rain barrel is a container that collects rainwater (also known as stormwater) from rooftops.

Why Use a Rain Barrel?

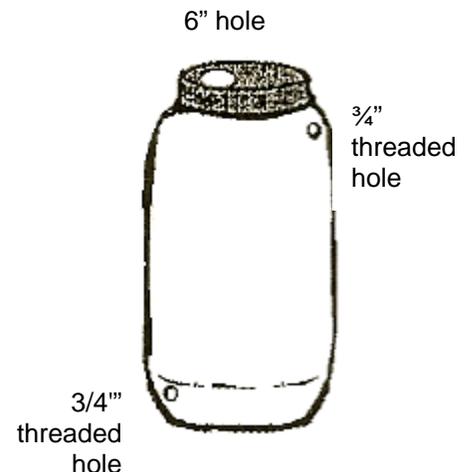
Not only does a rain barrel help the environment by keeping stormwater from your roof out of the storm sewer system, it also can help you save money. You can use the water in your rain barrel to water your lawn and garden during dry periods. After all rainwater is what plants are used to.

Where To Get a Rain Barrel.

Rain barrels can be purchased from certain garden centers or online. If you are willing to do a little work, you can make your own for under \$50. If you have a large roof area you may want to get more than one barrel and connect them together.

Equipment Needed to Make a Rain Barrel.

- ◆ Large plastic barrel (Check with local bottling or food storage companies and even your local home improvement center. Make sure the barrel did not store any chemicals, just food items.)
- ◆ Drill
- ◆ Hole saw
- ◆ 29/32" Drill bit
- ◆ 3/4" Pipe tap
- ◆ 3/4" Brass faucet
- ◆ 3/4" Hose adapter
- ◆ Teflon tape or all-purpose caulk
- ◆ Plumbers pipe strap deck screws
- ◆ 6" Louvered screen or sturdy mesh screening



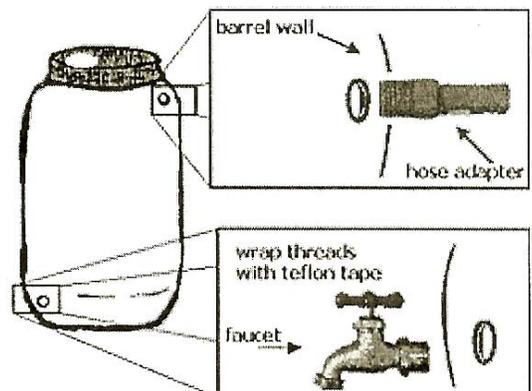
Construction Steps

Step 1

- ◆ Cut a perfectly round 6" hole on the top of your barrel.
- ◆ Drill 2 holes with a 29/32" drill bit, one towards the top for an overflow and one towards the bottom of the barrel for the faucet.
- ◆ Use a 3/4" NPT pipe tap and twist it into the upper 29/32" hole. Then repeat the same process for the
- ◆ lower 29/32" hole.
- ◆ Rinse the barrel out thoroughly as it once had food in it.

Step 2

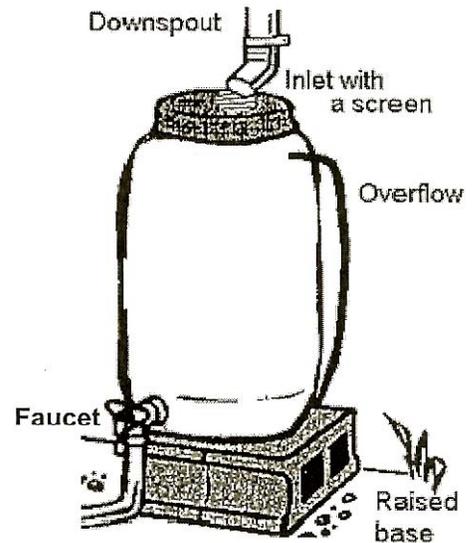
- ◆ Twist threaded side of hose adapter into 3/4" threaded hole towards top of the barrel.



- ◆ Prepare threaded side of brass faucet: wrap tightly with Teflon tape, make 4 or 5 rotations until threads are covered; or apply a thin ribbon of Kitchen and Bath All Purpose Adhesive Caulk, or similar sealant.
- ◆ Twist the threaded, prepared end of the faucet into $\frac{3}{4}$ " threaded hole at the bottom of barrel.

Step 3

- ◆ Cover 6" hole in the top by placing louvered screen onto the barrel with louvered side up and screen side down. Note: you can also use a strong mesh or window screen to cover the hole. It is important that the hole be covered with a mosquito proof barrier.
- ◆ Slide a hose onto hose adapter at top of barrel to direct overflow at least 6 feet away from the foundation of your home.
- ◆ Place two concrete blocks under the selected downspout as a raised base.
- ◆ Cut your downspout about 4" above the top of the barrel, and an elbow, and make any final adjustments to the base of the barrel.
- ◆ Add a hose on the faucet or you can keep it available for filling watering cans.
- ◆ Secure your rain barrel to the house with aluminum banding or screws.



Important Tips for Using your Rain Barrel

- ◆ NEVER use your collected water for drinking, cooling, or bathing.
- ◆ Make sure the lid is secure at all times so that children and small animals cannot fall in.
- ◆ You may want to disconnect the barrel during the rainiest months to avoid constant overflow.
- ◆ The screened louver vent or mesh will prevent mosquitoes from breeding in your barrel.

For more information contact the Delaware County Conservation District at 610-892-9484 or visit their website at www.delcocd.org.

Construction information and diagrams from the City of Bremerton, Washington (www.cityofbremerton.com)

