

Building your own Rain Barrel



Parts & Hardware

(photo right)

- a. 3/4" Faucet – Hose Bib
- b. 4" PVC Floor drain
- c. 1 1/8" metal washer
- d. ~1" rubber gasket
- e. 3/4" threaded male adapter
- f. Outdoor bug screen (cut to fit 4" floor drain)
- g. Siliconized acrylic adhesive sealant
- h. Multi-purpose screw Phillips flat head # 10 X 1"



Step-by-step instructions

- I. Cut two 4" holes in the top of the barrel with either a jigsaw or drill with 4" hole saw bit. A starter hole made with the drill may be necessary.
- II. Drill a 7/8" hole for the faucet several inches from the base.
- III. Rinse out the barrel thoroughly if the container is reused.
- IV. Attach a rubber gasket to the threads of the faucet followed by a metal washer.
- V. Screw in faucet to 7/8" hole (Leave room to tighten).
- VI. Using a pair of long pliers, reach through one of the 4" holes and screw on the threaded male adapter to the faucet threads. Once the adapter is threaded on tighten the actual faucet on the outside of the barrel by twisting.
- VII. Take the screen (cut to size) and below the 4" PVC floor drain.
- VIII. Make sure the screen is tight by pulling it up and place floor drain in 4" hole on top of the barrel. Repeat this step for other 4" hole.
- IX. Screw a multi-purpose flat head # 10 X 1" screw into one of the holes on the floor drain to ensure it is secure. Repeat this step for other floor drain.
- X. Fill barrel with water to ensure no leaks and seal the faucet to the barrel using siliconized acrylic adhesive sealant (Let sealant dry for at least 12 hours).

Position downspout near one of the 4" PVC floor drains to allow roof water to enter the rain barrel. The screen will need to be cleaned out occasionally.

Set the rain barrel on concrete blocks for stability and elevation.

Elevating the rain barrel increases the water pressure.

Selecting a Rain Barrel

Make sure the container is of adequate size and capable of withstanding the elements. If the container is reused, be sure it is "food grade" and that it was never used for paints, pesticides, petroleum products, or other chemicals. Pictured: A clean 55 gallon food grade drum is perfect for a rain barrel.

Overflow Installation

- Drill a 2 1/4" hole for the overflow near the top of the barrel.
- Install the overflow couplings. After final placement, PVC pipe can be used to plumb the overflow into a French Drain or to another rain barrel.

Tools

(photo below)

- 1/2. Drill (or jigsaw to cut 4" holes in top)
3. 7/8" bit
4. Hole saw bit (used to cut a hole with the drill)



Overflow Instructions

- a. 2" PVC adapter - Threaded male/slip female
- b. 2" PVC adapter - Threaded female
- c. Corrugated plastic piping (fit to size of outside PVC adapter)
- Drill a 2 1/4" hole using hole drill or jigsaw for the overflow near the top of the barrel.
- Connect adapters on either side of the barrel.
- Connect corrugated pipe to overflow.

