

# How to Make a Rain Barrel

You can collect rain water runoff from your roof in a rain barrel to use for outdoor watering. Once you find a sturdy barrel, the other materials will cost less than \$25.

## Materials Needed:

- One food-grade barrel or trash can
- Fiberglass window screen
- One ¾" brass faucet/hose bib
- Two ¾" washers or metal conduit nuts (found in the electrical section)
- One ¾" x close galvanized nipple
- One ¾" plastic insert female hose adaptor
- Silicone waterproof caulk
- Downspout elbow
- Approx. 4 feet of flexible garden hose

## Tools/Equipment Needed:

- Drill with hole saw
- Jig saw
- Scissors

**Step 1. Make an overflow drain.** Drill a hole near the top of the barrel. Twist the galvanized nipple into the hole, secure it with the nuts or washers then seal with waterproof caulk. Insert the hose adaptor and hose so water can overflow to another barrel or drain

away from your home's foundation.

**Step 2. Install the faucet.** Drill a hole for the faucet near the barrel's bottom.

**Step 3.** Screw the hose bib/faucet into the hole in the barrel, secure it with nuts or washers. Seal the opening with waterproof caulk.

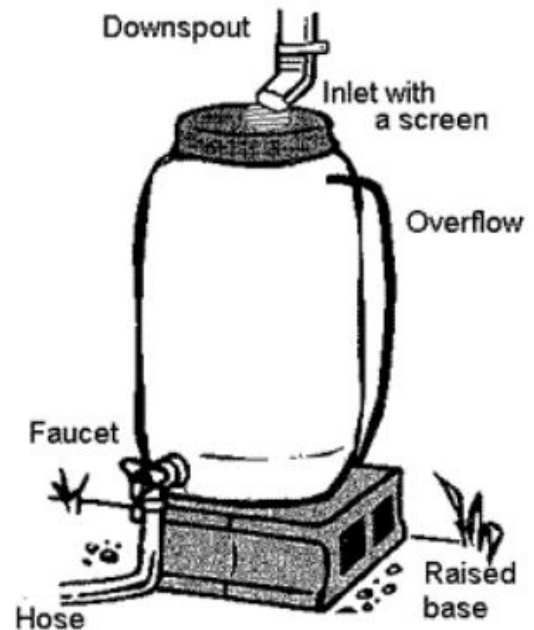
**Step 4. Make an opening to collect water.** Cut a hole in the barrel's top or trash can's lid slightly larger than the size of the down spout.

**Step 5. Keep out the mosquitoes.** Cut a piece of screen slightly larger than the barrel's top. Lay the screen over the trash can's opening and secure it in place with plastic strapping or the trash can lid.

**Step 6. Install the barrel.** Set the completed barrel on a stand or cinder block base located under your

downspout. Cut the downspout just above the rain barrel. Attach the downspout elbow to the downspout to direct water into the opening on the top of the barrel or trash can.

**Step 7. Start saving water!** Use the water you collected in the rain barrel to water your plants. You can collect even more water by directing the condensate from your air conditioner into the barrel.



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