

Things you will need...

Everything you need to complete this project can be purchased at your local hardware store, primarily in the plumbing or outdoor drainage sections. If you choose to use a 55 gallon "juice" barrel you can find sources for them locally and on the internet.

The Tools

- Drill
- 1 ¼" hole Bit
- 4" hole Bit
- 12" Adjustable Wrench
- 12" Channel Lock Pliers
- Jigsaw
- Waterproof glue

The Hardware

- 1 – ½" Brass Faucet/Hose Bibb
- 1 – ¾" MH x ½" MIP brass hose adapter
- 2 – 1" special female adapter, PVC
- 2 – 1" x ½" threaded bushing, PVC
- 1 – 6' Garden Hose Connector
- 1 – 4" Round grate, plastic
- 1 – 4-6" square piece of screen material

For Drainage (parts may vary by individual gutters)

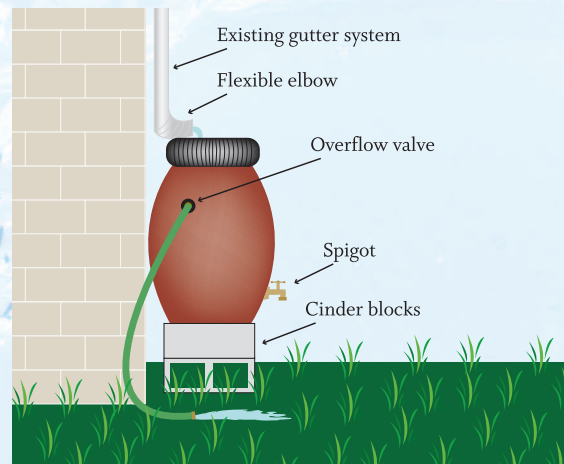
- 1 – 2" x 3" x 4" S&D Downspout Adapter
- 1 – A-B Elbow Cover
- 1 – Flex Elbow
- 4 – Concrete Blocks or equivalent (to raise barrel so water will flow)

The Container

Any food-grade container that can be cleaned and is sturdy with a removable lid can be used, such as:

- Large heavy duty garbage can
- Large industrial juice/pickle barrel
- Large wooden whiskey barrel

It's easy – YOU can make it !



Composed of a large container or barrel, a piece of vinyl hose, PVC couplings, a screen grate to keep out debris and insects, a faucet, and pieces of gutter, all from the local hardware store. Add the use of a few household tools and 30 minutes, and a rain barrel is relatively easy and economical to construct and can be used with any residential gutter system.

For more information, contact

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Let's Make a Rain Barrel

Instruction Guide

A simple step-by-step guide to help you make your own rain barrel



Every little drop counts!

- Collecting rain water can reduce flooding and water pollution by storing rain water from your rooftop that would otherwise be diverted to storm drains. Stormwater runoff collects pollutants (oils, greases, fertilizers, pesticides) as it flows downstream. A rain barrel is an easy way to help protect our bays and other waterways.
- A rain barrel can potentially save you from using 1,300 gallons of utility water per summer. When you save water you save money and protect the environment!
- Collected rain water is soft, chemical-free water and has no chlorine, lime or calcium. It is mildly acidic and helps plants take up important minerals from the soil.
- Water from a rain barrel can be used during times of drought to water plants, lawns, and gardens, or to wash cars or pets.
- Collected rain water is not potable. Do not drink.

LOOK inside for general instructions

then **VISIT** our **Web Site**:

http://escambia.ifas.ufl.edu/florida_yards/index_fyn.shtml

for detailed step-by-step instructions with photos.

Getting Started...

Step 1: Clean barrel and lid with soap and water

Step 2: Faucet Assembly

- A) Using 1 ¼" hole saw, drill a hole at front center of barrel just above bottom of barrel for faucet assembly.
- B) Place 1" x ½" PVC bushing into hole from outside of barrel.
- C) Screw 1" PVC special female adapter onto bushing inside of barrel.
- D) Install ½" brass faucet assembly into PVC bushing on outside of barrel.

Step 3: Overflow Valve

- A) Using 1 ¼" hole saw, drill a hole on side of barrel close to top for overflow valve.
- B) Place 1" x ½" PVC bushing into hole from outside of barrel.
- C) Screw 1" PVC special female adapter onto bushing inside of barrel.
- D) Install ¾" x ½" brass hose adapter into PVC bushing on outside of barrel.
- E) Install 6' garden hose connector to brass fitting to direct overflow away from house.

Step 4: Rain Intake

- A) Cut a 4" circle out of screen material so that it fits inside the 4" round grate.

- B) Drill 4" hole in center of lid (this can be cut with a jigsaw).
- C) Turn barrel lid upside down and insert threaded portion of grate, secure grate with waterproof glue.
- D) After drying, raised catch area should be through top of the lid.
- E) Place circular screen material into grate (mosquito prevention).

Step 5: Gutter Attachment

- A) Slip round end of 2" x 3" x 4" S&D downspout adapter over 4" grate.
- B) Slip smaller end of A-B elbow cover into 2" x 3" of adapter.
- C) Slip smaller end of flex-elbow into A-B elbow cover.
- D) Fit other end of flex-elbow to house gutter downspout.

Step 6: Placement

- A) Place Rain Barrel on concrete blocks.
- B) Make sure concrete blocks are level (a full barrel can weigh several hundred pounds).

Step 7: Painting

If you decide to paint the barrel, we recommend spray paint labeled for use on plastic.

