

Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel

Step #1

Drill a 7/8 inch hole several inches up from the bottom of a food-grade barrel. Make sure the size of the hole will accommodate the size of your water faucet.

Step #2 (optional)

Squeeze adhesive (marine glue or water-resistant silicone caulking) around the hole rim.

Step #3

Place a flat, galvanized washer over the threaded end of a brass water faucet. **CAREFULLY** screw the faucet into the hole. You do not want to cross-thread your hole.

Step #4

Decide which side of the barrel will have the overflow valve, then rotate the barrel a quarter-turn. Drill a hole near the top of the barrel, matching the size of the hole with the size of the overflow valve.

Step #5

Squeeze adhesive around the hole rim (optional). Tap the narrow end of the overflow valve into the hole using a rubber mallet. The side with wider threading is for connecting a hose.



Step #6

If the barrel does not have a hole on top, cut one. Use a plastic grate to cover the hole. This helps keep leaves and other debris out of the barrel. To keep insects out, cover the grate with a fine mesh screen. Next, slide the downspout adapter over the grate, which helps secure the screen in place. Trim any excess screen with scissors. (Optional) Drill a small hole through the downspout adapter and into the grate, then use a screw to lock all three pieces together. Insert grate/screen/downspout piece into the cut barrel hole. Done!



Rain Barrel Parts

- 55 Gal. Poly Drum (Recycled & Food-Grade)
- 3/4" Hose Bibb
- 1" Flat Washer (Steel)
- 3" x 4" x 4" PVC Downspout Adapter (White)
- 4" PVC Drop-In Grate (White)
- 5/8" – 3/4" Male Hose Repair Kit
- 6"x 6" Aluminum Window Screen Material
- 1 Sheet Metal Screw

Tools

- Drill
- Saw (Hole or Jig)
- Screw Driver
- Rubber Mallet
- Silicone Caulk



SOURCE: Special thanks to the city of Bellingham Water Conservation Program for their support. (www.COB.org)