



## Make Your Own Rain Barrel

### Supplies:

- 1 large plastic garbage can or plastic barrel (the larger it is, the more water you can collect)
- 1 tube of watertight sealant
- 2 rubber washers or o-rings (#11 or #12)
- 1 metal washer (3/4 or 7/8")
- 1 hose clamp, hex nut (7/8"), or hose adapter (need something to screw onto the spigot from the inside of the barrel)
- 1 spigot (1/2")
- A drill and spade bit (3/4" bit)
- Landscaping fabric
- Box cutter

1. Use the drill to create a hole near the bottom of your barrel. This is where you'll insert your spigot. Use a drill bit that's a little smaller than or the same size as the spigot for a tight fit. Create your hole near the base of the rain barrel but remember that you need to have space to fit a watering can beneath. I recommend just raising the barrel up on pavers to allow for space for the watering can.
2. Place a metal washer onto the threaded end of the spigot, then put a snugly fitting rubber washer over the threads to help hold the washer in place and prevent leakage.
3. Next, apply a bead of waterproof sealant over your rubber washer and insert the spigot into the hole from the outside of the barrel. Place the second rubber washer onto the threads of the spigot inside the barrel and apply more waterproof sealant. Secure the spigot in place inside your barrel with the hose clamp, hex nut, or hose adapter. This is important because it will keep your spigot from coming loose from your barrel.
4. Carefully cut a hole in the lid of your rain barrel using the box cutter. This hole should sit under your home's downspout, so the water runs right into the

barrel. Cut the hole so it's large enough to accommodate the water flow from the downspout.

5. You'll also want to drill a hole or two near the very top of your rain barrel. This hole will allow water to overflow. You can run a short length of hose or PVC pipe, from the overflow hole to another rain barrel to connect them either at the top or bottom of the barrel. That way if your rain barrel fills, the excess water will run into the next one and you don't lose overflow water.
6. Cut a piece of landscaping fabric to sit over the top of your rain barrel, then put the lid over the top of it to secure it. This will create a barrier that prevents mosquitoes and other pests from getting in your rain barrel water.
7. Position it directly underneath your downspout in a spot that's most convenient for you to use it. Then just wait for it to rain so you can enjoy the water and money savings. Set your rain barrel up on a platform to help give more pressure if you connect it to a hose. It also makes it easier to fill up watering cans.

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