

**What is a Rain Barrel?** A rain barrel is a catchment system designed to capture and store rain water coming off a roof, usually attached to a downspout.

### Benefits of using a rain barrel:

- ◆ Help lower water costs (a rain barrel can save approximately 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months).
- ◆ Store rain water for garden and lawn use.
- ◆ Reduce roof top runoff to storm sewers.
- ◆ Provide oxygenated, un-chlorinated water for plants.
- ◆ Easy to build and install.



### Parts Needed:

#### **Barrel:**

- (1) Plastic Barrel, food grade

#### **Inlet:**

- (1) Atrium grate (6")
- (1) Filter sock

#### **Outlet and Overflow:**

- (1) Spigot, brass (3/4")
- (1) Metal Washer (1" I.D.)
- (1) Rubber Washer (1" I.D.)
- (1) Metal Nut
- (1) Plastic elbow hose adapter (1 1/4")
- (1) Plastic female adapter (1 1/4")
- (1) Metal hose clamp

#### **Optional:**

- (1) Can, plastic-primer paint
- (1) Tube of silicone



### Tools Needed:

#### **Inlet:**

Jig-saw or rotary saw

#### **Outlet and Overflow:**

Drill

Spade Bits

Pipe-wrenches



## **Barrels:**

Buy or find a large “food-grade” plastic barrel (55 gallons in a good size to work with). Avoid barrels that contained chemicals, which may contaminate stored water.



## **Inlet:**

Use a rotary saw or jig-saw to cut a hole in the barrel lid, so that the inlet basket (atrium grate) fits snugly. Put a filter sock (or nylon) on the atrium grate to prevent mosquitoes from getting into the barrel. All openings should be plugged.



## **Outlet & Overflow:**

With a drill, makes holes for the spigot and the overflow adapter. Place the overflow hole low enough on the barrel to prevent water from collecting in the atrium grate when the barrel is full.



Secure the spigot to the bottom of the barrel (shown in the picture at the right). Secure the overflow hose (sump pump hose) with the elbow adapter, female adapter, and metal clamp. You can also use some silicone caulking or plumbing tape to ensure a tight seal.



## **Installation:**

Place rain barrel under downspout along your house. Make sure the barrel is on level ground, a full barrel can weigh over 450 pounds. Plug any extra openings to inhibit mosquito breeding.



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