

Hillsdale Water Quality Project

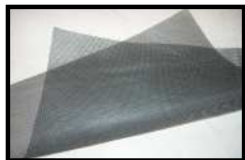
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Build Your Own Rain Barrel

Supplies:



For the screened input, you will need:

7" Flower Pot or Basket

7" Rubberband

1' X 1' Piece of Fiberglass Screen



For the overflow, you will need:

1 1/4" Male Adaptor

1 1/4" Sump Pump Hose (6')



For the faucet, you will need:

3/4" Plastic Spigot



For the rain barrel, you will need:

55 Gallon Plastic Barrel

To cut out holes, you will need:

1 5/8" Hole Saw (for overflow)

1" Hole Saw (for spigot)

Pilot Drill Bit(s) (for Hole Saws)

Jigsaw or Circular Saw (for basket)

Drill (for Hole Saws)



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Instructions:

- 1.) Trace your pattern for the basket in the top of your barrel. You will want to measure the hole using the bottom of your basket, so the hole is a little smaller than the top of the basket. Cut out the pattern with a jigsaw or circular saw. You can make a couple holes within your pattern using a drill for an easier start to cutting.
- 2.) Attach 1' square fiberglass screen to the basket using the rubber band. Place assembled basket into the cut out hole on the top of your barrel.
- 3.) Using a 1 5/8" hole saw, drill a hole about 2" from the top of your barrel on the side of the barrel that you want your overflow to go. Screw in the 1 1/4" male adaptor. Attach the 6' sump pump hose to the fitting.
- 4.) Turn the barrel to the front (opposite end of screened input). Using a 1" hole saw, drill a hole about 2" from the bottom of your barrel. Screw in the 3/4" plastic spigot.
- 5.) You will need to cut the guttering to attach either an elbow or flexible downspout. Now you are ready to install your rain barrel by placing the screened input under your downspout to begin collecting rain. Place the downspout towards the back of the screen so that water is collected during heavy down pours and light rains. The barrels are very heavy when full, so be sure to place the barrel on top of some cinder blocks. This will also help provide easier access to the spigot and increase water pressure.

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What is a Rain Barrel?

A rain barrel is used to collect water runoff from your roof. The collected water can be used to water plants, gardens, trees, etc. Benefits of using rain barrels include: less city water consumption, reduces stormwater runoff and provides a consistent supply of clean, fresh water for outdoor use. Rain barrels are a low-cost way to reduce runoff, reduce household water usage during the summer months and save you money while improving water quality.

**A 1,000 square foot roof harvests
600 gallons of water during a one inch rainfall!**

Tips

- You can link multiple rain barrels using a small hose to attach them at the overflow adaptor.
- The screen will help prevent mosquito problems, but if needed, you can add a mosquito dunk to your barrel or use vegetable oil. The oil will coat the top of the water, making it difficult to impossible for the mosquitoes to lay their eggs.
- When choosing a 55 gallon plastic barrel, look for those used for food products so they are safer to use.
- For winterizing your rain barrel, empty and disconnect from your downspout to avoid busting. Save your gutter pieces that were cut so that you can re-attach them when the barrel has been winterized.
- Elevate your rain barrel using cinder blocks. Full rain barrels are heavy, approximately 400 pounds! Plus it will make it easier to access your spigot.

