

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

How to make and use a rain barrel:

Rain barrels have grown in popularity, as they add to the ambiance of the garden and they also help conserve water and save money. A rain barrel doesn't have to be anything extravagant – it is usually just a simple barrel between 50 and 80 gallons. The barrel will collect water from roof runoff and store it until you need to use it around your home.

How does the rain barrel work and what can I use it for?

When the roof collects rain water and the water falls through the gutters, a downspout can connect to the barrels as well to provide an easy way to water your garden. A 1/2 inch of rain can fill a 50- to 55-gallon barrel.

How to build a rain barrel:

To start with your barrel, use a simple container such as a clean trash can with a lid. You will also need a length of downspout to attach to the house's gutter. Purchase two elbows to attach to the house and to attach to the lid of the trash can. Other items you'll need include a spigot, a threaded attachment, a washer, a marker, some sealing tape and some silicon. You will use a cordless drill with a 1/2 inch bit.

Mark and drill the hole on the trash can for the spigot. The spigot should not touch the ground or be too high up so all the water can come out of the spigot. Drill a hole about 2 inches up from the bottom of the can. Attach the spigot to the trash can by wrapping the sealing tape around the threads of the spigot. Thread the spigot through the hole until it is tightly attached



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to the outside of the trash can. Then, put the washer over the threaded connection of the inside of the spigot and take some PVC threaded device and screw it on the inside of the spigot.

Seal the spigot to prevent leaks with a silicon seal. Leave it to dry for three hours. Set the rain barrel on top of some cinder-blocks near one of your downspouts from the gutter. Measure the connection on where to attach the downspout. Put the lid on the can and use the two elbows, one at each end of the downspout.

Mark the outline where you want your downspout to connect. Cut the downspout with a hacksaw and also cut out the area you drew on the trash can lid with a box cutter. Assemble all items together, with the lid on the trash can and the assembled downspout and attach it to the house downspout. Then, take the other end of the downspout and insert it into the hole in the trash can lid.



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