



# Make Your Own Rain Barrel

## Tools Needed:

### **Inlet:**

- Jig-saw or Keyhole Saw or Rotozip

### **Outlet and Overflow:**

- Drill
- Spade bits
- Pipe or crescent wrench
- Long handled pliers

## Parts Needed:

### **Barrel:**

- (1) Plastic barrel, food grade

### **Inlet:**

- (1) Atrium Grate (6")
- (1) 1 gallon paint strainer

### **Outlet & Overflow:**

- (1) 4 foot sump pump hose
- (1) Hose clamp
- (1) 1.25" Barb Elbow
- (1) 1.25" SLXFPT (used as nut for barb elbow)
- (3) concave 1.5" washers
- (1) Brass Hose Bibb .75" MPT
- (1) 1" washer
- (1).75" galvanized nut
- caulk

## Instructions:

Rain barrels can be built out of a variety of barrels and hardware. Talk with your local hardware store for more information on parts for your specific use. The primary components are usually 1) an entrance hole on the top that is screened to keep mosquitoes out 2) a hole on the side close to the top which allows excess water to drain out. A hose can be hooked to this outlet allowing excess water to flow away from the side of the building. Two or more barrels may be hooked together with a short hose using the overflow outlets to allow for more storage. 3) a faucet on the bottom that can be connected to a hose or soaker hose.



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**Barrel:**

Buy or find a large 'food-grade' plastic barrel. Avoid barrels that contained chemicals, which may contaminate stored water.

**Inlet:**

Use a saw to cut a hole in the barrel lid, so that the inlet basket (atrium gate) fits snugly. Put a filter sock, screen or nylon on the atrium grate to prevent mosquitoes from getting into the barrel. Adapt your downspout to run into the barrel through the atrium grate.

**Outlet & Overflow:**

Determine the location of your barrel in relationship to your house. Then accordingly, locate sites for outlet and overflow. Use the appropriate size bit to drill a hole for the overflow and the outlet. The overflow is close to the top, on the side, usually on the left or right side. (Avoid the temptation to place it right next to the top. You will not be able to place washers on the barb elbow) The outlet is close to the bottom usually on the front side. (again not to close to the bottom)

Place the 1" washer on the hose bib and place some calk on the barrel side of the washer. Reaching in through the inlet hole use the long handled pliers to hold the galvanized nut inside the barrel against the outlet hole. Have a helper insert the hose bib into the hole and twist. After the bib has started on the threads of the nut use a pipe wrench to tighten.

Place one concave washer on the barb elbow. Have the "cave" side of the washers face the barrel. If desired, calk can be placed on the "cave" side of this washer close to the barb. Insert into the overflow hole. Depending upon the thickness of the barrel, place 0, 1 or 2 washers on the barb elbow on the inside of the barrel. (placing "cave" side to "cave" side will increase thickness of the washers if needed.) Place the SLXFPT on the barb elbow and tighten. Make sure the barb elbow faces down. Using the hose clamp fasten the sump hose to the barb elbow.



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