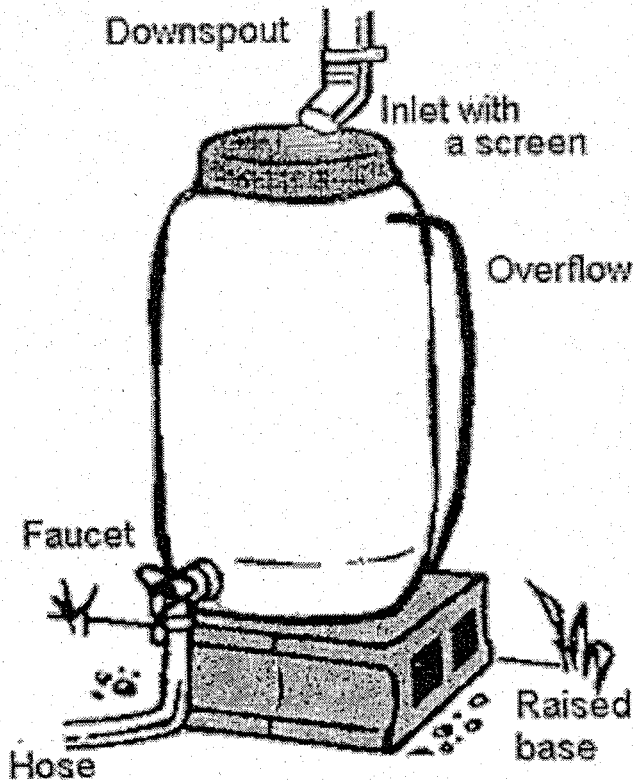


Make a Rain Barrel



List of materials & estimated prices

Barrel

- 55 gallon (250 liter) barrel with lid (price varies)
- A piece of screen (\$1.00 for scrap piece)
- 8 stainless steel screws (8 @\$1.00)
- 8 stainless steel locknuts (8 @\$0.15)

Spout Hardware

- 1 brass faucet with 3/4" pipe thread and 1" standard hose fitting (\$6.99)
- 3/4" galvanized coupling (\$1.99)
- 3/4" galvanized bushing (\$0.89)
- teflon tape for pipe threads (\$1.29)
- Outdoor silicone sealant (\$4.30 for 2.8oz)

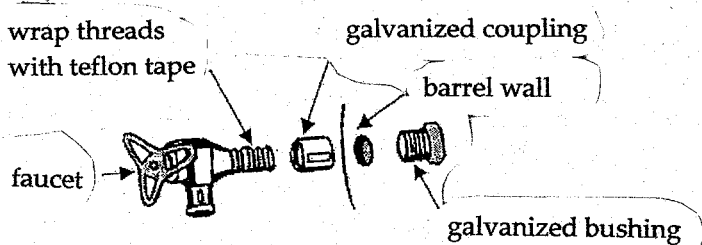
Overflow Hardware

- 3/4" pipe thread to 1" hose adapter (\$1.50)
- 3/4" lock nut (\$0.89)
- garden hose with a coupling with inside threads at one end (\$12.00)

Total Supply Cost is approximately: \$25.00
(not including barrel or hoses)

For your safety, always use protective gear such as gloves and safety glasses.

1. Have all tools and materials available for constructing your rain barrel.
2. Clean your barrel well with a mild detergent.
3. Create a 5" hole in the lid of the barrel to serve as an inlet. Use a drill with a large saw bit or a jig saw. Note: cutting into plastic requires care and attention. Sand the hole so you will not scratch yourself later.
4. With a drill, use a 3/4" hole saw bit and cut one small hole near the base of your barrel to serve as a faucet. Turn your barrel one third of the way around to either left or right, and drill another hole about 2 to 3 inches from the top of the barrel for the overflow.



Checklist of Tools

- gloves
- safety glasses
- hacksaw
- drill
- 5" hole saw bit, or jig saw with a hacksaw blade
- 3/4" hole saw or drill bit
- utility knife
- large adjustable wrench
- pipe wrench
- access to a vice
- steel wool
- glue or epoxy

Base – Option 1

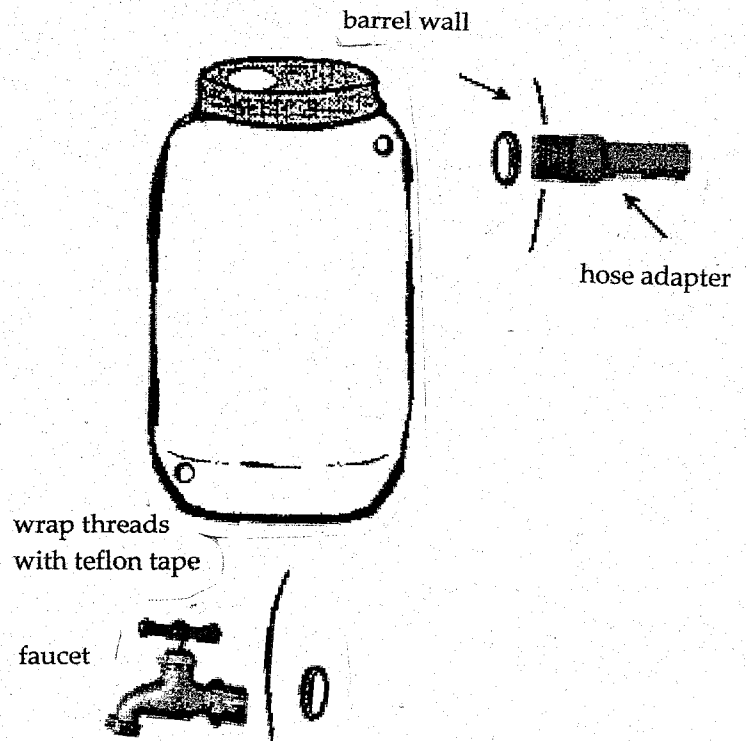
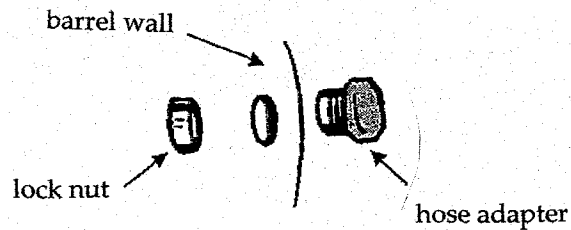
- 4" x 4" outdoor lumber
- a bucket of gravel

Base – Option 2

- Cinder or concrete block

Use food grade barrels only

5. From inside the barrel, push the bushing through the bottom hole, and tightly attach the faucet unit from the outside. Place a bead of silicone between the coupling and the barrel wall to ensure a tight seal.
6. Similar to Step #6, install the overflow fitting in the top hole. Sealant is optional.



7. Secure screen over top inlet hole with epoxy or glue.
8. Let the rain barrel dry, and fill with water to test seal. Save water!
9. Shorten your down spout on the house using a hacksaw. Dull the cut edges with steel wool. Reinstall the elbow so that water is directed into the barrel.
10. Align the inlet hole with down spout. Position the overflow hose to direct excess water away from your home.

What is a rain barrel?

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rain water from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains, streams and the Rouge River.

Five Helpful Hints

1. Make sure your rain barrel is placed on a level sturdy surface. A base can also consist of cinder or concrete blocks placed on leveled ground or construct a box frame with treated lumber and fill with gravel to serve as a raised base.
2. Make sure your rain barrel is placed high enough to allow a bucket to be placed below the faucet.
3. Periodically check your barrel to ensure that it remains in good working order.
4. If your rain barrel appears to fill up quickly, consider connecting two barrels together. You will capture twice as much rain water!
5. To keep mesquitos from living in your rain barrel, put in a BT pellet, or ¼ cup of oil, or water your garden frequently!