

Rain Barrels can be connected together.



Setting your Rain Barrel up at Home

Level the dirt under your downspout and add some sand. Remember rain barrels need to be higher than ground level for water pressure. Use bricks, cinderblocks or treated wood to raise barrel. Measure and cut off downspout. Leave room to reattach the downspout end piece. Attach a hose to your overflow hole and set your rain barrel in place. Next, attach the downspout piece. Decorate and landscape around your barrel.



Helpful Tips and Reminders

Rain Barrel water is not for cooking or drinking. Keep the screening on your barrel to avoid mosquito breeding. The higher the barrel the greater the water pressure. Disconnect the barrel in winter.

Friends of the Occoquan offer free workshops on Rain Barrels and Community Gardens. FOTO also sells pickling barrels with kits so you can make your own rain barrel. To find out more visit the Friends of the Occoquan website www.friendsoftheoccoquan.org or call us at 703-624-7124.



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How to Make a Rain Barrel

Presented by

Friends of the Occoquan

Conserve Water

Keep our Waters Clean



About Your Rain Barrel

Your 55 gallon barrel is a food grade pickling barrel from Mount Olive Pickle Company. Each barrel comes with the hardware to complete your rain barrel. **Tools, hoses, and downspout not included.**

Tools and supplies you will need

Safety glasses, gloves, power drill with 1" hole bit, pliers or wrench to tighten washers, scissors, screwdriver, hacksaw to shorten downspout and sandpaper.

How to Make your Rain Barrel

Before you begin rinse out and dry barrel. You will need a friend on hand to help you.

Mark the spot where you want to drill your hole for your faucet.



Drill a hole towards the bottom of the barrel. File off debris with sandpaper.



Screw faucet in (note washer goes first). Keep faucet straight as you screw it in. Have someone to help you hold the barrel steady.



Next, crawl inside your barrel to seal the faucet. Press rubber gasket tightly against faucet/barrel wall, follow with big washer (indented side towards barrel) and screw on lock nut. Tighten lock nut with pliers. Using a flashlight is helpful. The faucet is now connected.



Drill a hole towards the top of your barrel for the overflow



Screw in the adapter using a wrench, making sure to protect the threads and place in lock nut. Use pliers to tighten, making sure to cover threads with a rag or pipe cap to prevent damage.



Take your pre-cut screen and place it on the top of the barrel. A screen will prevent mosquito breeding. Screw the lid on over the screen. Your rain barrel is now complete.



Optional: Paint your barrel.

