HOW TO BUILD A RAIN BARREL

Developed by the Urban Land Stewardship Council of the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation
55 GALLON FOOD GRADE BARREL

PARTS

Our barrels came from:
Fred Slaven
2151 Mt. Carmel Road
Jamestown, OH 45335
937.825.7066
PARTS

3/4” threaded plastic hose coupling

2-3/4” threaded PVC plugs

Flexible downspout elbow

3/4” hose bib spigot
Wrench

TOOLS

Ruler

15/16” wood bit or hole saw

5/16” drill bit

Plumbing tape
POWER TOOL

Jig Saw with a metal blade

Drill
LOCATION OF FITTINGS

Over flow coupling

Plug to be used for linking future barrels together

Spigot

Extra plug to use as a spigot location if you elevate your barrel
Position downspout elbow between the caps. Measure 3” from the lip. Place small end of elbow at this location. Trace around elbow.
Use ruler to make a perfect rectangle around the downspout elbow tracing.

Mark with pencil.
Using the drill and the 5/16” drill bit, drill 4 holes at the corners of the downspout elbow tracing.
Insert Jig Saw blade into drill holes and saw along line to the next drill hole.
Use ruler to pry up plastic while making the final cut.
Insert flexible downspout elbow. If desired, use a silicone caulk to seal.
On the opposite side from the elbow’s hole, measure 4” and 13” from the bottom of the barrel.
Drill 2 holes at your marks using the 15/16” wood bit or hole saw.
Turn barrel 90° and measure 4” from the bottom of the barrel.
Drill hole using the 15/16” wood bit or hole saw at your mark.
Turn your barrel so that you are in between the cap and the elbow’s hole. Measure 2” from the top, starting under the rim.
Drill hole at your mark using the 15/16” wood bit or hole saw.
Using pressure, twist hose bib spigot into hole. Use the wrench to tighten fitting down completely.
Remove spigot and repeat process in the other 3 holes.
Now that your holes are all drilled, it is time to insert all of your fittings.
Apply plumbers tape to the 2 PVC plugs, the hose bib spigot, and the hose coupling. Turn the fitting clockwise in your hand to properly apply the tape.
Position the spigot in the location that meets your needs.

Use this hole if you are placing barrel on the ground.

Use this hole if you are elevating the barrel.
Insert the hose bib spigot to the top or bottom hole on the front of the barrel, depending on your needs. Insert a PVC plug in the remaining hole. Tighten both using a wrench.
Insert the PVC Plug in the hole located at the bottom of the barrel. Tighten with a wrench.
Insert the plastic hose coupling in the hole located at the top of the barrel. Tighten with a wrench.
Enjoy your Rain Barrel!