

Rain Barrel Installation



Level area where rain barrel will be placed. If possible elevate with lumber, brick or cinder blocks.



Place rain barrel with gutter assembly under downspout. Mark a line where your rain barrel will be installed.



Place flexible elbow inside barrel.



Gutter elbow

Remove gutter elbow and gutter bracket. Save bracket for winterization.



Using a hacksaw cut gutter at your mark.



Attach a scrap of 3/4" hose or tubing to the overflow valve. Direct hose away from the foundation of the house.



Gutter bracket

Turn gutter elbow upside down and place in flexible downspout elbow. Place assembly in rain barrel.



Attach gutter to your gutter elbow making sure to place gutter **inside** the elbow. **USE CAUTION:** metal edges are sharp.



ENJOY!

Tips

- Your rain barrel is GRAVITY fed, so elevate the barrel as high as you can for more pressure.
 - Use bricks or cinder blocks to elevate barrel.
 - Attach a soaker hose for continuous low-pressure watering.
- Mosquitoes should not be a problem if you keep your gutters clean. However, if you get mosquitoes, you can keep them at bay by adding a tablespoon of vegetable oil each season or by emptying the barrel every week.

Maintenance

- This rain barrel is designed for gutters that are 2" x 3" If you have gutters that are 3" x 4", you will need to purchase a gutter converter like the one shown. (A)
- Some people opt to seal their flexible downspout elbow with a silicone caulk. (B)
- Your fittings should be water tight. However if you have a problem with your fittings leaking, simply drain the barrel, remove the problem fitting, allow it to dry and re-tape with Teflon plumbing tape. Applying a fine bead of silicone caulk to the fittings threads may also help.



Winterization

- Unhook your barrel from the downspout and wash out barrel, removing as much sediment as possible.
- Store barrel upside down to prevent any water from getting in the downspout elbow hole.
- Re-attach downspout for the winter. You may need to purchase a flexible downspout extension like the one shown if your gutter doesn't go back together easily. (A)

Painting

- Thoroughly clean the outside of your barrel.
- Rough up the surface of your barrel with a fine grit sand paper.
- Wipe any residue off.
- Apply a spray paint that is specifically designed for plastic outdoor furniture. Krylon® works great for this.
- Use an acrylic craft paint for details.
- Finish with one or two coats of clear polyurethane.



To calculate gallons of water that come off your roof in a rainstorm, use the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{Square footage of roof (Length X Width)} \\
 &\times \\
 &(\text{number of inches of rain divided by } 12) \\
 &\times \\
 &7.48 \text{ cubic feet/gal (a standard)} \\
 &= \\
 &\text{Total gallons of water}
 \end{aligned}$$

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