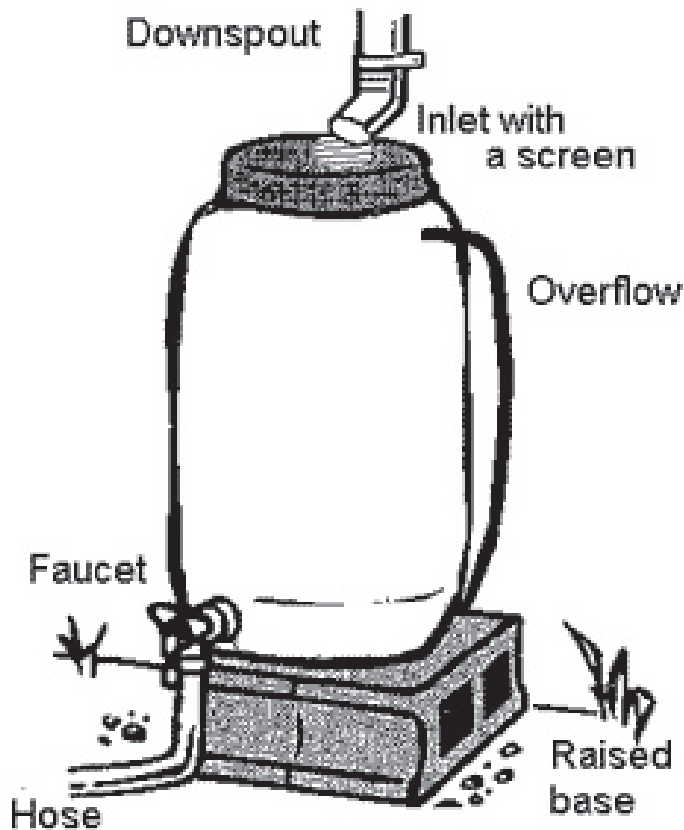


Make a RAIN BARREL!



List of materials & prices

Barrel

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

coupling with inside threads at one end (\$12.00)

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

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

Spout Hardware

- 1 brass faucet with 3/4" pipe thread and 1" standard hose fitting (\$6.99)
- " 1/2 " galvanized coupling (\$1.99)
- " 1/2 " galvanized bushing (\$0.89)
- teflon tape for pipe threads (\$1.29)
- outdoor silicone sealant (\$4.30 for 2.8oz)

Base - Option 1

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

Base - Option 2

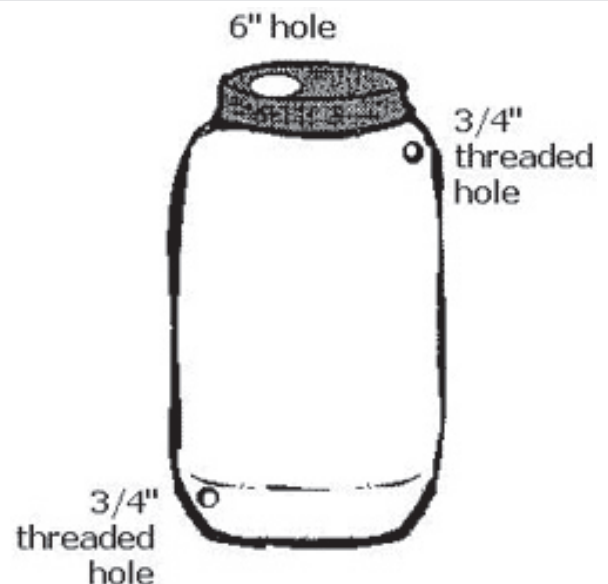
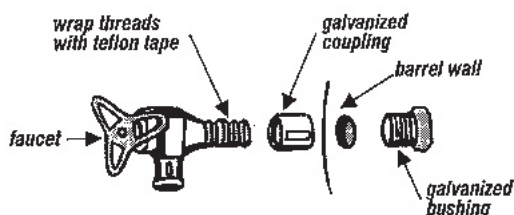
- Cinder or concrete blocks

Overflow Hardware

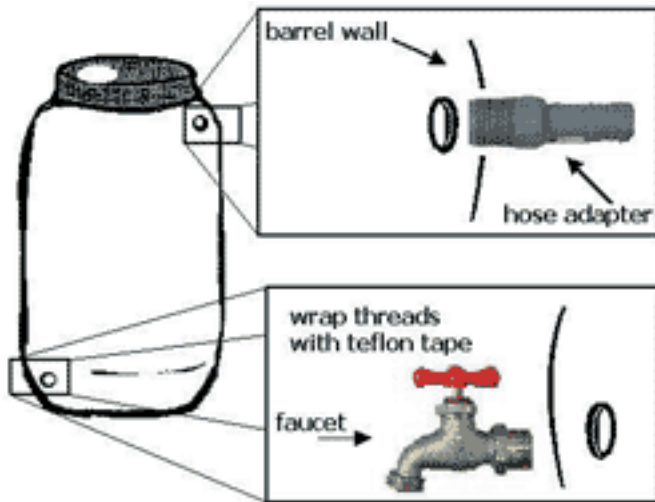
- 3/4" pipe thread to 1" hose adapter (\$1.50)
- 3/4" lock nut (\$0.89)
- garden hose with a

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

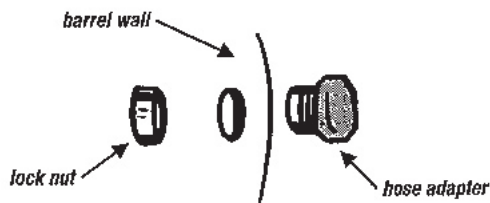
- 1 Have all tools and materials available for constructing your rain barrel.
- 2 Clean your barrel well with a mild detergent.
- 3 Create a 5" hole in the lid of the barrel to serve as an inlet. Use a drill with a large saw bit or a jig saw. Note: cutting into plastic requires care and attention. Sand 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.



Use food grade barrels only.



- 6 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.
- 7 Similar to Step #6, install the overflow fitting in the top hole. sealent is optional.



8. Secure screen over top inlet hole with epoxy or glue.
9. Let the rain barrel dry, and fill with water to test

seal. **Save water!**

To attach your barrel to a downspout,

- 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.

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 1/4 cup of oil., or water your garden frequently!



www.growinghope.net

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Growing Hope is dedicated to helping people improve their lives and communities through gardening. Based in Washtenaw County, Michigan, we work with neighborhoods, schools, community groups, and families to develop and sustain gardens. We build on the strengths of individuals and the community to bring the benefits of gardens to all. School and community gardens are ideal ways to improve nutrition, enhance neighborhoods, foster education, and bring people back to the "roots" of how to till the soil and make something grow.

Please, join in our efforts!