

Do-it-yourself, easy-to-make Rain Barrel

We used clean plastic trash cans, but you can also recycle used food-grade containers or almost any other plastic container.

One important note: Roof water can contain dirt, debris and bird droppings. Also, certain roofing materials can leach chemicals. Do not let people or pets drink from a rain barrel.

Step 1: About 16 inches up from the bottom of the trash can, drill a hole just large enough to fit the threaded end of the black bushing. This is usually 1 1/4" (6cm) in diameter BUT SHOULD BE CONFIRMED PRIOR TO DRILLING.

Step 2: Push the black bushing along with the thick rubber washer attached, through the hole from the inside of the tank to the outside. The black bushing is now sticking through the outside of the tank

Step 3: Push the second rubber washer over the bushing on the outside of the tank then screw on the plastic nut, with the flat side facing towards the tank.

Step 4: Thread the faucet into the bushing and position so that the tap can easily be turned on and off. Make the connection snug enough so that the faucet won't wiggle, but do not over tighten.

Step 5: tighten the outside nut and washer. If desired you can then run a bead of silicone caulking around the edge of the washer on the outside of the can. The caulk is extra insurance against leaks.

Step 6: Four inches in from the edge of the lid, drill a hole big enough to fit your saw blade. Enlarge the hole to about 6 inches around so that water empties into the barrel without splashing off the lid. Next, cut a circle of nylon mesh screening big enough to overlap the mouth of the barrel by a few inches. Place the screening over the barrel and snap the lid in place. This will keep mosquitoes out.

Downspouts usually come in 3-foot lengths. Remove the curved elbow and the bottom section. Reattach the elbow and position the rain barrel with the opening in the lid directly under the spout.

To use your captured rainwater, simply slip a watering can under the faucet and open the tap.