

How to Build a Rain Barrel

How to make my rain barrel

This guide was designed to help you through the steps to make your own rain barrel. I use parts and techniques which work well with the 55 gallon plastic drum I use to make my rain barrels.

I do not cover the many barrels or vessels on the market today. Some may require a different approach or part. The plumbing trade has a wide variety of parts of many materials available to the general public at the big box stores. Don't be shy about asking for help. They are there for you!

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1 Parts needed



Skimmer basket



3/4 plastic or brass bib



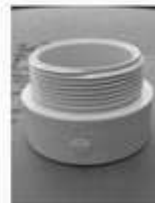
Flexible downspout



55 gallon barrel



1 1/2 inch slip elbow (2)



1 1/2 inch male adapter

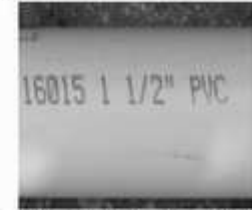
2 Additional parts



1 1/2 inch conduit locknut



Teflon compound & tape



1 1/2 inch PVC pipe (10 ft.)

3 Gather tools for project



You will need a 1/4 or 3/8 inch drill 1" paddle bit



2" hole saw



A saber or jig saw with a hack saw blade - ruler - channel lock pliers - and sanding screen or sandpaper

4 Seal and thread plugs into openings



Use teflon compound to coat plug thread & thread into opening. Tighten with back of pliers. Turn barrel up side down to continue.



5 Cut the filter basket hole



Make sure the surface is flat, with no ridges. Trace bottom of filter basket on barrel bottom. Cut outside line to make filter hole.



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6 Making the overflow fitting hole



Align the bit guide to mark. Use two hands to hold drill (kickback) then drill hole. Remove cut piece using filter basket hole.



Mark barrel 2 inch down from curved edge.

6 cont. Install the overflow fitting

Coat threads of short male adapter with teflon sealant.



Insert coated end into barrel.



6 continues

Holding the conduit nut, insert arm into basket hole ready to find the male adapter thread



Sand to clean a 2 inch piece of 1 1/2 pipe & insert into fitting.



With other hand hold the small male adapter and hand tighten the nut.



Insert the 1 1/2 90° slip elbow on the 2 inch piece of 1 1/2 PVC



7 Prepare to install hose bib

Measure 4" from the bottom and mark your bibs position



Using the 1" paddle or wood bit, carefully drill the one inch hole.



8 Installing the hose bib



Slowly thread the bib into the hole to begin a thread. Be sure not to cross thread. Back out and wrap 3 or 4 times with Teflon tape. Thread it into hole again until it's snug against the barrel.

9 Installing the overflow

Finished barrel



With the barrel in place and a 90° on the bottom mark the exact length fitting the location, then add 3/4 inch & cut the pipe... see line. Sand cut edges, press pieces of unglued pipe together.