



## **Rain Barrel Assembly**

Materials needed to construct one rain barrel:

- One food-grade 55-gallon barrel made of HDPE (can be purchased at local feed stores, see reverse side)
- Drill
- 15/16" hole saw or paddle bit
- 1-7/8" hole saw or paddle bit
- 3/4" solid brass hose bibb
- 1-1/2" male adaptor for overflow
- 1-1/2" 45° street elbow (pushed into male adaptor to direct the overflow)
- Small pieces of screen (about 4" x 4") to be placed between the male adaptor and street elbow to keep out mosquitoes and another piece (about 8" x 8") to be placed between the downspout and the top of the barrel
- Gorilla Glue® or similar all-purpose glue
- Plumber's tape or Teflon tape

**Step 1:** Clean out your rain barrel with a 1:1 mixture of vinegar and water.

**Step 2:** Use the 15/16" hole saw or paddle bit to drill a hole as close to the bottom of the barrel as possible. Then, use the 1-7/8" hole saw or paddle bit to drill a hole that is a quarter-turn away from the bottom hole and as close to the top of the barrel as possible. It is extremely important to use these specific size hole saws; anything larger or smaller (even by 1/16") will result in an inadequate fit.

**Step 3:** Use an all-purpose adhesive around the threads of the hardware (PVC cement is not recommended because it does not bond well with the hose bibb). If necessary, Teflon tape can be used before applying the adhesive to create a tighter fit. Screw the spigot into the hole at the bottom of the barrel; it will have a snug fit (it might be necessary to whittle away some plastic). Screw the male adaptor (which should be connected to the street elbow, with the 4" x 4" piece of screen between the parts) into the hole at the top of the barrel.

**Step 4:** Once the hardware is screwed in, apply more adhesive around the seal. Allow the adhesive time to dry according to the package instructions before using the rain barrel. Female adaptors can also be used on the inside of the barrel to secure the hardware rather than or in addition to adhesives.

**Step 5:** Measure and make a hole in the top of the rain barrel to connect it to the downspout. Place the 8" x 8" piece of screen over the hole at the top of the barrel and connect the rain barrel to the downspout, or use silicone to create a tight seal. Shorten your downspout using a hacksaw or tin snips, if necessary, and dull the cut edge with steel wool. Downspout adaptors can also be used instead of cutting the downspout. Position the overflow (male adaptor and street elbow) to direct excess water away from your home. Optional: Add one tablespoon of cooking oil into the rain barrel to discourage mosquitoes from laying eggs inside; periodically add cooking oil as it's depleted. Bti ("mosquito donuts") can also be used. Bti is a naturally-occurring bacterium that kills mosquitoes.

For additional information on rain harvesting or the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program, contact the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program at the Citrus County UF/IFAS Extension, 3650 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 1, Lecanto, FL 34461, 352-527-5700, <http://citrus.ifas.ufl.edu>. Visit the Southwest Florida Water Management website at [www.WaterMatters.org](http://www.WaterMatters.org) if you need more detailed instructions; search for "rain barrel" in their "free publications" section.



### Why use a rain barrel?

- Naturally soft, additive-free water that will not irritate your plants
- Water gathered in your rain barrel is not subject to watering restrictions
- Helps to conserve water in our community
- Reduces stormwater runoff, which can carry pollutants into our water bodies
- Saves money on your water bill
- Saves money on your sewage treatment bill by decreasing the amount of water going into the sewer system
- Decreases energy consumption used to treat wastewater and delays building/expanding wastewater treatment plants

### How can I use the water that I collect?

- Non-potable purposes such as:
  - Watering indoor and outdoor plants
  - Keeping your compost pile moist
  - Washing off gardening tools
  - Refilling water features
- Water should not be used for drinking, bathing or cooking

### Purchasing Barrels

Barrels can be purchased for approximately \$15.00-\$25.00. Call first to check availability:

- American Farm Feed Gift & Tack at 717 NE 5th Street, Crystal River, FL 34429, 352-795-6013
- Gunter's Farm Feed & Nursery at 3187 W. Dunnellon Road, Dunnellon, FL 34433, 352-489-9239
- Lazy C Feed & Tack Supply at 5865 SW 176 Avenue, Dunnellon, FL 34432, 352-489-9222
- The Hay Barn at 7298 S. Florida Avenue, Floral City, FL 34436, 352-637-6600
- Country Feed & Supply at 7120 W. Grover Cleveland Boulevard, Homosassa, FL 34446, 352-628-2716
- Yellow Rose Farm & Feed at 9 US Highway 19, Inglis, FL 34449, 352-447-4477

