

# How Do I Assemble My Rain Barrel?

## TOP (INLET):

The hole(s) in the top of the barrel allow rain-water to enter the barrel. The barrel can be used with or without a gutter downspout. Three 4-1/2" holes can be drilled in the top, or a rectangular hole can be cut to receive the downspout. Whatever the shape hole, it must be large enough to handle the flow and allow for cleanout. Fiberglass screening must cover the entire top of the barrel tightly to keep litter and mosquitoes out.

- 1a. Attach 4-1/2" hole saw to drill. Cut hole in center of the barrel. Be very careful! Saw may jump! Cut remaining 2 holes an equal distance from the center hole. File edges if rough.
- 1b. OR saw a rectangular hole for downspout (or other design). Either begin in existing cap hole or drill a pilot hole(s) for saw. File hole edges smooth.
2. Cut a 3' x 3' section of fiberglass screen.
3. Place screen over the top of the barrel. Put 4' bungee cord over screen and just below the lip of the barrel to secure screen. (NOTE: Install screen as last operation in constructing the rain barrel).

## BOTTOM (OUTLET):

A 3/4" male hose bibb or faucet will be installed as the outlet device of the rain barrel. Attach a water hose to the faucet or use a watering can for watering.

1. Determine where you want the hose bibb or faucet. The recommended location is 3" from bottom of the barrel. Most people elevate barrel on concrete blocks to allow a watering can to be placed under faucet.
2. Attach 1" Forstner bit to drill.
3. Use drill to cut 1" hole.
4. Screw 3/4" male hose bibb into barrel to cut threads in the barrel wall.
5. Unscrew male hose bibb and wrap threads with Teflon plumber's tape (2-3 wraps around threaded end of hose bibb).

6. Screw hose bibb into barrel. The faucet spout can face down or to the side to attach a hose for watering plants.
7. Apply silicone caulk if necessary, or place rubber washer and nut on hose bibb from inside of barrel to secure faucet. (Note: washer and bibb nut are not listed in materials list.)

## OVERFLOW:

The overflow design uses 8' of 1-1/2" sump pump hose which allows the overflow to be directed to a particular area and away from the house.

1. Determine where you want the overflow in relation to the hose bibb. You must think of where you plan to locate the rain barrel and where you want to direct the overflow.
2. Attach a 1-3/8" Forstner bit or spade bit to the electric drill.
3. Place the center of the bit approximately 4" from the top of the lip of the barrel.
4. Cut the hole.
5. Hand-crimp the hose so that it fits into the hole. This may be difficult but it will work. You want a tight fit, but no need to caulk.

## BASE:

A base for the rain barrel can be created by simply using cement cinder blocks or another similar setup. The barrel should sit at least 15" off the ground, high enough to accommodate a pail underneath the faucet.

**RESULT:** See cover panel photo for finished barrel.

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PEPSI MARKETING GROUP  
PONTOTOC CO. SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
CITY OF PONTOTOC  
CHIWAPA CREEK DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
NATURAL RESOURCES INITIATIVE  
NORTH CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI RC&D COUNCIL

# CHIWAPA CREEK RAIN BARREL PROJECT

**NORTH CENTRAL MS RC & D COUNCIL &  
PONTOTOC COUNTY SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

PROJECT FUNDED BY THE  
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**662-489-3563 ext. 3**

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# Chiwapa Creek Rain Barrel Project

## What is a Rain Barrel?

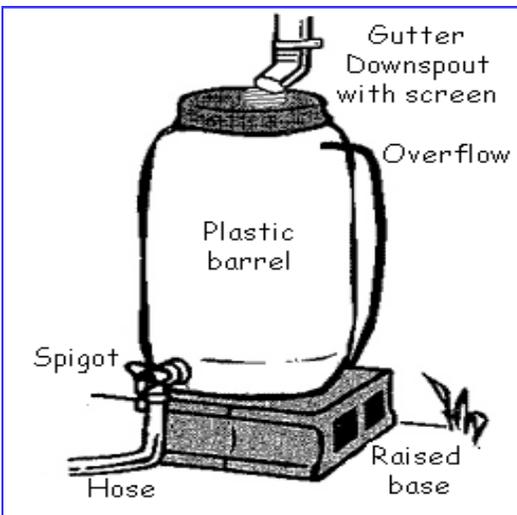
A rain barrel is a simple rainwater collector that collects and stores rain water from a rooftop for later use in watering or irrigation.

A rain barrel is relatively simple and inexpensive to construct and can sit conveniently under any residential gutter downspout. Rain barrels can be used individually or linked together to capture a greater volume of water.

## Why Should I Collect Rainwater?

Rain barrels do more than catch rainwater. While collecting water from the downspout, these barrels also:

- Divert water from the municipal storm drain system (reduces treatment cost)
- Protect our rivers and streams from runoff pollution
- Control moisture levels around the foundation of your home
- Provide oxygenated, un-chlorinated water which is ideal for plants
- Direct overflow water to where you want it
- Save money—water your yard with ‘free’ water
- Conserve a vital natural resource



## How Do I Install A Rain Barrel?

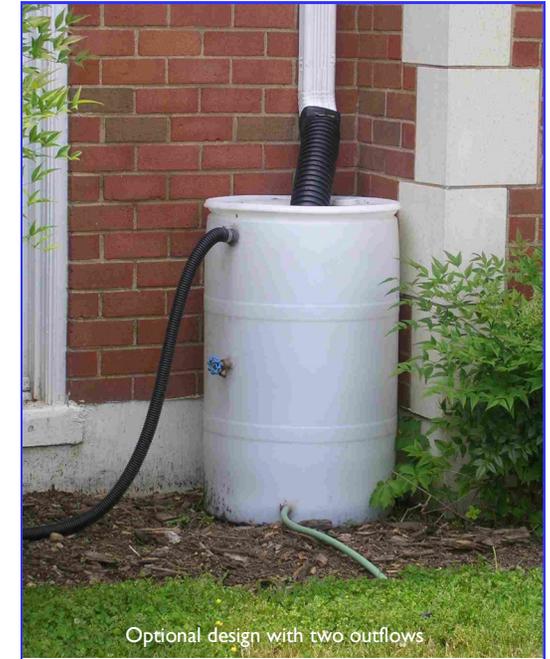
- Before you start, make sure that your roof is clean and your gutter is clear of debris.
- Select a place for your rain barrel under a down spout, eave or roof valley on level, solid ground free of any rocks, roots or debris. Level the ground with a shovel or rake if needed.
- We recommend raising your barrel at least 15 inches by placing it on top of flat landscape stones or concrete blocks. Make sure your base is sturdy and level. Raising your rain barrel off of the ground will give you more water pressure and make it easier to access the faucet with a watering can or bucket.
- Place the rain barrel in position.
- If attaching the rain barrel to a gutter, use the flexible extendable gutter extension as a guide. Cut the gutter downspout with a metal hack saw or metal cutting pliers. The gutter extension flexes like an accordion so an exact measurement is not needed.
- Flex your gutter extension to the shape and distance you need. Attach the gutter extension to the downspout and secure with two screws (optional, but recommended). Rest the end on the top of your rain barrel. (If you have cut a gutter/downspout-sized hole in the top of the barrel, relax the screen a bit and ease it in a little on top of it.)

## How Do I Take Care of My Rain Barrel?

- Clean gutters and downspouts, and remove debris from the mosquito screen on top of the barrel.
- Clean inside rain barrel by spraying with a hose.
- Check your overflow hose and connections.
- Keep top of barrel covered with the fiberglass screen to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs. Mosquito Dunks can be used in rain barrels. This is a larvicide and not harmful to pets, people or plants.
- Store rain barrels during winter.

## OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

- A 55 gallon barrel full of water weighs 440 pounds.
- Painting the barrel keeps sunlight out and hinders algae growth. Select a paint that adheres to plastic.
- Link barrels w/overflow hose to store more water.
- Direct your overflow away from your house.



Optional design with two outflows

*One inch of rain falling on 1,000 square foot of roof adds up to 623 gallons of water.*

## What Materials Will I Need to Make a Rain Barrel?

### MATERIALS:

- Large Plastic Barrel (55 gallon)
- 3/4" Male Hose Bibb or Faucet
- Teflon Plumber's Tape (& maybe Caulk)
- 1-1/2" Sump Pump Hose, 6'-8' length
- 3'x3' - Fiberglass Screen
- 4' Bungee Cord

### TOOLS:

- Drill (Electric or Cordless)
- 4-1/2" Hole Saw (or small reciprocating saw)
- 1" Forstner Bit
- 1-3/8" Forstner Bit or Spade Bit
- Safety Glasses
- File (to smooth hole edges)