

# DO-IT-YOURSELF RAIN BARREL



- Lawn and garden watering typically makes up 40% of a household's total summer water usage – by collecting rain water and storing it for when needed you can help lower your bill!
- Rain barrels help “slow the flow” and reduce stormwater runoff that would normally pollute local waterways.
- Use collected rain water for watering your lawn, garden, and indoor plants or for washing your car!

## PARTS



1/2” Galvanized Mal.  
 Lock Nut  
 First Supply  
 Price: \$2.15, need two



7/8” x 1–3/8” 18 Gauge  
 Machine Bushing  
 Menards, SKU #2011754  
 Price: \$0.59, need two



1/2” Brass  
 Hose Bibb Valve  
 Menards, SKU #6851785  
 Price: \$4.69



3/4” MHT x 1/2” MIP  
 Nylon Garden Hose (Adapter)  
 Menards, SKU #6806709  
 Price: \$1.36



55 Gallon Drum  
 Open top WITH Lid  
 Purchased from J.R. Watkins  
 Price: \$5.00



Size determined by your home's  
 downspout  
 FLEX-Drain Downspout Adapter  
 Menards, SKU #6893766  
 Price: \$2.29

\*Prices are an estimate based on time of purchase & location



# What You'll Need

- 4 inch hole saw
- 1/2" Drill Bit & Battery-Powered Drill
- 100% Waterproof Silicone Caulk
- Caulk Gun
- Barrel & Parts!!



## Steps to Creating Your DIY Rain Barrel

1. If your barrel was used for product be sure to rinse it out thoroughly and allow it to dry.
2. Using the 4 inch hole saw, drill a hole in the barrel lid about 2-3 inches from the edge. This side of the lid with the hole will be the side that rests against your house.
3. Rotate the barrel 90 degrees and using the battery-powered hand drill with the 1/2 inch drill bit, drill a hole 2 inches down from the top of the barrel. This will be for your nylon hose adapter. It will serve as an overflow or as a connection to another rain barrel.
4. Turn the barrel 90 degrees again, you should now be on the barrel side opposite to where you drilled the hole on the lid. Using the battery-powered hand drill and the 1/2 inch drill bit again, drill a hole 2-3 inches from the barrels bottom. This will be for the hose bibb valve.
5. Before fitting your parts together and securing them to the barrel with caulk, ensure everything will fit on the barrel properly.
6. For the hole at the barrel's bottom –
  - a. Place a small amount of caulk on one machine bushings on the side that will rest against the barrel.
  - b. Fit the machine bushing onto the hose bibb valve, ensuring the side with caulk is facing away from the valve's spout and towards the barrel.
  - c. Put the hose bibb valve into the hole, pressing the machine bushing firmly against the barrel.
  - d. Place a small amount of caulk on the lock nut and secure the lock nut to the hose bibb valve from inside the barrel.
7. For the overflow hole at the barrel's top –
  - a. Repeat steps as you did for the hose bibb valve. Make sure the smaller end of the nylon adapter is the end inside the barrel and is secured with the lock nut.
8. Insert your downspout adapter into the hole drilled on the barrel's lid.
9. Connect your barrel to your home's downspout using the downspout adaptor. You may need to cut your downspout to the proper length/height for it to connect to your barrel.
10. Ensure the ground surface is flat below the barrel and use concrete blocks or bricks to hold your barrel about 1 foot up from the ground to be able to access your hose bibb valve and retrieve your collected rainwater.



### Using Your Rain Barrel

- Don't drink the collected rainwater.
- Ensure your barrel is on a flat surface & secure, a full barrel weighs over 450 lbs!
- Direct overflow from the barrel away from your home or garage.
- Keep the barrel lid on. This will prevent mosquitoes, keep debris from falling in, & ensure safety.
- Drain your barrel 1-2 times per month to discourage mosquitoes & collect the next rainfall.
- Drain & disconnect your rain barrel for winter and store it in a dry place. Be sure your downspout will still divert runoff away from your house once the barrel has been removed.

