

Making A Rain Barrel

CAUTION:

- **DO NOT** USE ANY CONTAINER WHICH HAS PREVIOUSLY HELD CHEMICALS OR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.
EVEN TRACE AMOUNTS OF THESE SUBSTANCES MAY BE TOXIC TO PLANTS.
- **DO SCREEN** OR COVER ALL ACCESS POINTS TO AND FROM BARREL TO PREVENT BREEDING MOSQUITOES, WHICH CAN CARRY WEST NILE VIRUS.

Materials List:

55-gallon barrel with closed top or 30- to 44-gallon heavy duty plastic trash can

2 cinder blocks

2 square foot wire mesh or air filtration material

waterproof sealant (silicon, caulking – I use SeaBond)

2 small straight PVC pipes

2 elbow (joiner) pipes

1 spigot

1 flexible connector arm

Tools: Staple gun, hacksaw, hammer, awl

Mosquito netting or screening for all openings, and for top if container does not have a mosquito-tight lid

Preparations:

1. Level barrel onto two cinder blocks.
2. Disconnect down spout and cut.

Assembly: (Refer to diagram)

1. Spout attachment:
 - a. Trace perimeter of flexible connector.
 - b. Cut out pattern
 - c. Connect flexible connector
2. Filtering system:
 - a. Lay mesh over opening. Insert connector arm. Press down.
 - b. Attach mesh to top of barrel
3. Overflow system:
 - a. Coat one end each of straight pipes with waterproof silicon. Connect to elbow pipes, forming S shape.
 - b. On same side as downspout, trace perimeter of PVC about one foot from top. Cut hole.
 - c. Insert pipe system into barrel
 - d. Seal opening with silicon or caulk.
4. Spigot attachment:
 - a. Drill hole 7/16" in diameter.
 - b. Coat threads of spigot. Screw into opening.

Diagram of a Rain Barrel

