

How to Make a Homemade Rain Barrel

Material list:



55- gallon plastic barrel with pre-drilled holes



Spigot to install in pre-drilled hole near bottom of barrel



Overflow port to install in pre-drilled hole near the top of the barrel



Stretchable Cord to secure screen over barrel



Window screen for over the top of barrel



Silicone pouch. Using scissors snip the corner of bag and squeeze out.

Step 1: Decide Where to Put Your Rain Barrel

A rain barrel collects rainwater running off your home's gutters, so you will need to set it up near a downspout.

Before you start building your rain barrel, you may wish to construct a stand for it to sit on or use a pre-made one. While it's fine to leave the barrel on the ground, raising it a couple of feet makes it easier to put a watering can or another receptacle under the spigot. Anything you use as a barrel stand needs to be level and sturdy enough to hold about 300 pounds.

Step 2: Install the Spigot and Overflow Port

You will need to install a spigot at the bottom to drain water and an overflow port at the top to prevent the barrel from overflowing. Insert the spigot in pre-drilled hole, secure on the inside with threaded brass adapter and seal the joint with silicone.



Place the overflow port close to the top of the barrel using the same method as spigot which will allow the water to escape if your rain barrel gets too full. Ensure threaded nut is on the outside of the barrel to connect a diversion hose.

Step 3: Add the Window Screen

Finally, using the pre-cut a section of window screen, lay it across the top of the barrel and stretch the cord around the top lip of the barrel to secure. Installing window screen stops debris and mosquitoes from getting into your barrel.



Can I Use a Rain Barrel Without a Gutter?



If your home does not have a gutter system, you can still use a 55-gallon rain barrel to collect water falling from your roof. Or, simply place large containers at several points around your home.

Location is key if you want to make a rain barrel without a gutter. During rainy weather, walk around your home and locate the areas where the most water flows from the roof. Placing one or more barrels, in these places will let you collect as much water as possible.

Seasonal Maintenance for your rain barrel.

Water should be drained prior to winter freeze to prevent damage to the barrel. Scrubbing the barrel occasionally to remove any growth with a coarse deck brush will help prevent odor/algae issues that can be common in stagnant water.

**BARRELS ARE NOT FOOD SAFE,
SO RECOMMENDED FOR LANDSCAPING
ONLY**