

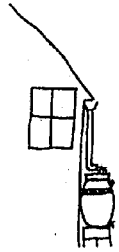


Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs

www.gardencentral.org/degardenclubs

RAIN DROPS FROM ROOF TOPS

It's amazing how much water can be collected from the roof of an average house. On 750 square feet of roof, with a seasonal rainfall of 23 inches, you can collect 10,746 gallons of water. Rain water is soft and untreated. Plants love it. You can use it to water your garden, lawn, and indoor plants; moisten your compost, clean your tools, and even wash your car. If you have a gutter and downspout system on your house or garage, you can tap into this wonderful resource by creating rain barrels for your home.



HOW TO MAKE YOUR RAIN BARREL

SUPPLIES

You should be able to purchase all but the barrel at Lowes, Home Depot or any hardware store.

We found out car washes sell them reasonably 5-10 dollar

<p><u>Spigot and hardware</u> 3/4" hose bib spigot 3/4 galvanized locknut 2 metal washers - 3/4" inner diameter (can use a 3/4"-1" conduit knockout hole adaptor) 2 rubber washers - 3/4" inner diameter</p>	<p><u>Overflow Valve & hardware</u> 3/4" brass or plastic overflow valve (called a male hose MIP adapter) 3/4 galvanized locknut 2 metal washers - 3/4" inner diameter 2 rubber washers - 3/4" inner diameter</p>
<p><u>Other</u> 4-6 concrete blocks depending on the height desired Mesh screen for top filter Downspout elbow or use old one</p>	<p><u>Tools</u> Drill 7/8" hole saw or drill bit (3/4" for very secure fit) Pliers, wrench or vice grips</p>

1. You will want a barrel that has held a food grade commodity, such as pickles or vitamins. Fuel or oil carrying barrels should not be used. Scrub you barrel thoroughly with soap and water to remove any residues.
2. Drill a 7/8" hole with your hole saw or drill bit, just off the bottom of the container for the spigot assembly. Put as low as possible to maximize easy water use.
3. Drill a 7/8" hole and inch or so below the rim for your overflow valve assembly. This hole can go anywhere around the barrel at that latitude. Keep in mind: don't put it too close to the top (overflow) or too low (loss of water storage). 1" to 1 1/2" a half from the lid is good. (Note: if you've got a 2,000 square foot roof and large downspouts, you may want to get a larger overflow valve.)

4. Place metal washer first, then rubber washer on barrel end of spigot. Screw into lower hole.
5. Place rubber washer first, then metal washer on end of spigot inside of barrel. Secure with locknut and tighten with wrench.
6. Place metal washer and rubber washer over longer end of overflow tube. Note: If you are unsure of your seals, you may want to apply a bead of all purpose silicone "goop" where the overflow valve meets the outside of the barrel. However, this should not be necessary if you tightened the locknuts well.
7. Repeat # 5.
8. Remove top cover place screen over top of barrel and use barrel locking ring to secure. Trim screen as needed.
9. Level the area for you barrel with a spade and set the concrete blocks in place.
10. Place the barrel on the blocks.
11. Hold the new elbow on top of the barrel against the downspout. The bottom of the piece should just reach the barrel—an inch or so.
12. Mark the existing downspout where you'll cut it off.
13. Set the barrel and the elbow aside and measure down 2 inches from the pencil mark on the downspout. That'll allow room for the old downspout to fit into the elbow securely.
14. Use a hacksaw to cut off the old downspout.
15. Fit the new elbow over the end of the downspout and fasten it in place with sheet metal screws or pop rivets.
16. Now you're ready to collect all that free rain water!

Websites On How To Make A Rain Barrel:

www.cityofbremerton.com/content/sw_makeyourownrainbarrel.html
www.midwestinternetsales.com/rainbarrels.htm
www.gardengatemagazine.com/tips/40tip11.html

Other Rain Barrel Sites:

<http://www.cityfarmer.org/rainbarrel72.html>

