

How to Install a Rain Barrel

Tools & Supplies

- Hacksaw
- Garden hose
- Gravel or sand (not pictured)
- Cinderblocks (2-4)
- Level
- Pencil
- Flexible downspout or elbow
- Flashing or cardboard



Step 1: Prepare Base

Select a flat area under a downspout. Use **gravel** or **sand** to level the area. Place the **cinderblocks** under the downspout. Use a **level** to make sure barrel will sit flat on the cinderblocks. **WARNING:** A full barrel can weigh over 400 lbs. and can present a hazard if not completely level.

Step 2: Cut Downspout

Measure height of the barrel to make sure downspout is cut high enough to accommodate the barrel. Mark the cut line with a **pencil**. Place **flashing** or **cardboard** behind the downspout before cutting to protect home exterior. Use a **hacksaw** to cut the downspout. Place the barrel on **cinderblocks** beneath the cut downspout. Attach the flexible downspout or elbow to the end of the cut downspout and direct it towards the inflow. Attach a **garden hose** to the overflow and direct it away from the house.



About NJWSA

The New Jersey Water Supply Authority was formed in 1981 to manage Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoirs, Manasquan Reservoir and the Delaware & Raritan Canal as drinking water supplies. The Watershed Protection Division works with stakeholders within the Raritan and Manasquan Basins to protect these water supplies.

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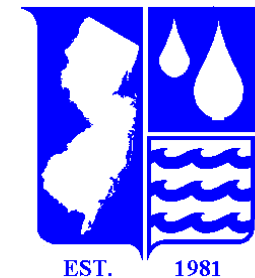
Tips for Rain Barrels

- Take rain barrel offline during winter months to avoid ice damage.
- Paint your rain barrel to in a fun design or to match your house.
- Prevent mosquitos with Mosquito Dunks, or by adding 1 tbsp. of vegetable oil or dish soap.
- Have water tested before use if water is intended for vegetable gardens or if moss killer has recently been

How to Build and Install a Rain Barrel



Keep the Rain
from the Drain!



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What is a Rain Barrel?

A rain barrel is a modified barrel that stores rainwater collected from a roof. The barrel is hooked up to the gutter and downspout and helps reduce drinking water usage, stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution.

Why Install a Rain Barrel?

Typically, after water lands on a roof, it will flow down the downspout and into the street where it can pick up pollutants like sediment, oil and other heavy metals from cars and trucks, as well as nutrients and bacteria from animal waste and carry them to the stream. Water captured in rain barrels can be used to water lawns and ornamental plants, wash cars or dirty boots, and for other times when drinkable water is not necessary. The usage of rain barrels helps stormwater enter the ground slowly instead of becoming runoff.

Barrels can be found from a wide range of suppliers, including online searches and local food and beverage distributors. Supplies, tools and kits are available at most hardware stores.

Tools & Supplies Needed

- Protective eyewear
- Work gloves
- Rubber gloves
- Power drill with 1" hole saw
- 8" Groove joint pliers
- 8" Adjustable wrench
- Reciprocating saw or jigsaw
- Ruler
- Scissors



- 55 gallon food grade barrel (not pictured)
- 3/4-inch brass faucet

- 3/4-inch garden hose adapter
- Two 3/4 inch locknuts
- Teflon thread seal tape
- Silicone sealant
- Window screen (approximately 24"x24")
- Pond basket or colander

How to Build a Rain Barrel

Step 1: Inflow

Wearing safety gloves and glasses, use the **jigsaw** to cut a hole in the top of the barrel where rainwater will enter the barrel. The hole must be measured to accommodate the **basket** or **colander** that will be inserted into the inflow to keep insects and debris out. NOTE: This step may not be necessary for certain types of barrels with screw on tops or predrilled inflows.

Step 2: Faucet

For screw top barrels, use the **power drill with 1" hole saw** to drill a hole 6-8" from the bottom of the barrel. For a closed-top barrel, you will need to measure how far down you are able to reach into the barrel to apply **sealant** and attach the **locknut** to the faucet. Wrap **Teflon tape** around the threaded end of the **brass faucet** that will be inserted in the barrel two times in the opposite direction of the threads. Screw the **faucet** into barrel so that no thread is showing and the faucet is perpendicular to the barrel, using an **adjustable wrench** if necessary.



Step 3: Sealing/Locking Faucet

Wearing **rubber gloves**, apply **sealant** around the threaded end of the faucet inside the barrel. Begin tightening the **locknut** by hand onto the **faucet**. Tighten the rest of the way using the **groove joint pliers**. TIP: Have a friend hold the faucet on the outside to ensure it remains perpendicular to the barrel as the **locknut** is tightened.

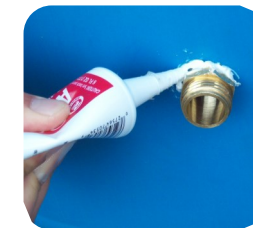


Step 4: Overflow

Using the **power drill with 1" hole saw**, drill a hole on the side of the barrel, just below the depth of the **basket** when placed in the inflow. NOTE: Think about where you would like to direct the overflow. Be sure to direct the overflow away from your house and foundation.



Wrap **Teflon tape** around longer end of the **brass garden hose adapter** two times counterclockwise. Screw the long end of the **brass garden hose adapter** into the hole on the side of the barrel, using an **adjustable wrench**, if necessary. Wearing **rubber gloves**, apply **sealant** around the threaded end inside the barrel. Begin tightening the **locknut** by hand onto the **faucet**. Tighten the rest of the way using the **groove joint pliers**.



Step 5: Screening

Wrap **gray window screen** around the **pond basket** or **colander** and insert it into the inflow to keep out debris and insects. Check the basket and screen for debris after it rains and make sure that the screen is still in place.

