

Rain Barrel Instructions

<i>Top Hole for Water Input from Downspout</i>	
1	Using bottom of pool skimmer basket, trace circle in top center of barrel with pencil.
2	Cut out the hole for the skimmer basket using a reciprocating saw (wood blade) or jig saw. Cutout on the small side, trimming more as necessary to increase the circle diameter so that the pool skimmer basket flange rests comfortably on top of the barrel without falling in.
3	Smooth/sand edges of circle if necessary.
<i>Lower Hole for Garden Hose Shutoff Valve</i>	
1	Starting about 1" - 1-1/2" up from bottom of barrel, drill a hole using the 7/8" hole saw. Use gentle pressure to reduce kickback. Increase hole diameter as needed to fit the shutoff valve.
2	Screw in the shutoff valve, then back it out, apply teflon tape, and a bead of silicone caulk on flange edge to seal. Rescrew back into hole.
<i>Upper Hole for Overflow</i>	
1	Starting about 4"-5" from top of barrel, mark center of overflow hole. Typically this hole is at a 90-degree angle from the lower hole for the garden hose.
2	Drill a hole using the 1-1/4" hole saw.
3	With some force, pop the 1-1/4" Female Adapter for the drain hose into the hole. Seal around opening with a bead of silicone caulk (optional).
<i>Connecting the Barrel</i>	
1	Let all glued and siliconed parts cure for 24 hours before connecting hoses.
2	Position barrel on sturdy platform at least 12"-16" above ground near/under downspout. Raising the barrel facilitates the flow of water and ease of access to lower hole for the garden hose. Cinder blocks can be used and topped with a more aesthetic 24" cement paver. Keep in mind the barrel can weigh up to 400lbs when full of water.
3	Insert pool skimmer basket into hole on top of barrel. Line inside with window screen to protect against mosquitoes (optional). Use PVC cement to attach screen to basket, but do NOT glue basket to barrel.
4	Modify downspout and position into the skimmer basket. Most likely, the downspout will need to be shortened using a hacksaw. A plastic Flexispout can be purchased for maximum flexibility and location options. Use Metal Self-Drilling screws to attach the Flexispout to shortened downspout.
5	Connect the drain hose to the overflow adapter. Trim the hose connector end to the appropriate size, and use the included clamp to fasten. Drain hose away from house foundation.
6	Connect garden hose to the lower hole shutoff valve. Apply teflon tape (optional). Turn valve to OFF until ready to use.
7	Ready!
<i>Options</i>	
1	Paint the barrel. Using a spray paint for plastic, paint the barrel to match the house or the surrounding shrubs. Artistic renderings can also be pretty once the barrel is primed. White translucent barrels can promote algae growth, so painting is recommended.
2	Landscape the barrel on the sides for camouflage. Or, place potted plants conveniently next to their water source to hide the raised base.
3	Connect a soaker hose to the hose adapter and open the valve when needed to slowly water an adjacent garden.
4	Connect two barrels in series to collect more rainwater. Simply connect the upper overflow hose to another lower rain barrel. Second rain barrel must have an overflow.