

# Building a Rain Barrel

## - as easy as 1, 2, 3! -

These instructions offer a low cost, simple method for collecting rain water. You can use your choice of materials to make a unique rain barrel suited to your home.

### Materials:

- Food grade barrel
- 1"-3/4" Reducer
- 3/4" Faucet
- Teflon tape
- 1 1/2" Overflow Adapter
- 1 1/2" Hose (at least 6')
- All weather silicone or similar sealant
- 1/8" screen (8" x 8") & 2 6" flower pots

### Tools:

- Drill
- 6" Hole Saw (or jig saw)
- 1 3/16" Drill Bit
- 1 1/2" Hole Saw
- Rasp or round file
- Rubber mallet



1. Clean the barrel. *Use 1/4 cup of vinegar and rinse your rain barrel out thoroughly to remove previous contents. Do not use bleach as it is harmful to the environment and storm drains.*

2. Use a 6" hole saw or a jigsaw to cut a perfect 6" hole in the top of your barrel.

3. Drill a hole with a 1 3/16" drill bit at least 4" from the base of the barrel, for the faucet.

4. Drill a hole 6" from the top of the barrel, 90 degrees from the faucet, with a 1 1/2" hole saw for the over flow.



1. Wrap faucet threads tightly with teflon tape and twist in the threaded faucet into the reducer.

2. Apply a thin bead of all weather silicone, or similar sealant around the reducer fitting to ensure an even seal with the barrel.

3. Twist in the threaded reducer into the 1 3/16" hole towards the base of the barrel. Ensure the tap threaded tightly and that it is upright. Allow the sealant to dry before use.

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3



1. Insert flower pot into the 6" hole in the top. Set a 6" screen into place and place 2nd flower pot inside
2. Attach a hose to the overflow to direct water away from your home.
3. Place rain barrel on prepared site area.
4. Cut your down spout 4" above the top of the rain barrel, add a flexible elbow attachment and make minor adjustments as necessary.

### Where to put your Barrel:

- Choose a location close to a downspout
- Clear an area the size of the barrel you plan to install and level the ground
- Create an elevated structure to create more water pressure, ensuring the structure can safely hold the 200 pound weight of a full barrel. Two cinder blocks are strong enough.

### Rain Barrel Tips:

- Do not use rain barrels for drinking water
- Ensure the barrel is made from food grade materials. Used barrels are an in-expensive and environmentally-friendly choice.
- Screen or close any openings to keep out pests and mosquitoes
- Before the temperature drops below freezing disconnect and empty the rain barrel, leaving the spigot open, to prevent ice damage.

### Multiple barrels make sense:

Most rain barrels hold about 217 litres (about 55 US gallons) while a 2000 sqft roof can collect over 800 litres of rain during a heavy rainfall. On average in Vernon, over 5200 litres could be collected during the month of July. Residential outdoor water use in July is about 580 litres per day which adds up to a whopping 17,409 litres a month - rain could cover 30% of that water use!

Instructions provided in partnership between Element Eco-Design and the RDNO  
For more information call the Regional District of North Okanagan-Greater Vernon Water at 250-550-3700 or visit [www.rdno.ca/water](http://www.rdno.ca/water).