



# How to Make Your Own Rain Barrel

The City of Cedar Falls promotes water conservation by use of rain barrels. This is a basic design and can be modified to suit your needs. You can put yours together for about \$30.

## Tips for using your rain barrel

- Do **not** use collected water for drinking, cooking or bathing.
- Keep lid secure so children or animals cannot fall in.
- Disconnect barrel to avoid constant overflow during rainiest months. Attach for use in early spring.
- If a moss killer has been used on the roof, wait couple of rainfall events before collecting runoff.
- Elevate your rain barrel slightly to make access to the spigot easier.
- **The screened louver vent will prevent mosquitoes from breeding in your barrel.**

Consider joining multiple barrels for additional capacity!

## Step 1

1. Use a 6" hole saw, a saber saw, a keyhole saw or a drywall saw to cut a perfectly round 6" hole on the top of your barrel.
2. Drill two holes with a 29/32" drill bit, one towards the top for an overflow and one towards the bottom of the barrel for the faucet.
3. Next use a 3/4" NPT pipe tap and twist it into the upper 29/32" hole, then untwist the tap and back it out of the hole, then repeat the same process for the lower 29/32" hole.
4. Rinse barrel out thoroughly- it previously had a food product in it.

## Step 2

1. Twist threaded side of hose adapter into 3/4" threaded hole towards top of the barrel.
2. Prepare threaded side of brass faucet; wrap tightly with teflon tape, make 4 or 5 rotations until all threads are covered; or apply a thin ribbon of Kitchen and Bath All Purpose Adhesive Caulk, or similar sealant.
3. Twist the threaded, prepared end of the faucet into 3/4" threaded hole at bottom of barrel.

## Step 3

1. Cover 6" hole in the top by placing 6" louvered screen onto the barrel with louvered side up and screen side down.
2. Slide a hose onto hose adapter at top of barrel to direct overflow water away from your home.
3. Place 2 concrete blocks under selected downspout as a raised base.
4. Cut your downspout about 4" above the top of the barrel, add an elbow, and make any final adjustments to the base and barrel.
5. Add a hose on the faucet or keep it available to fill a watering can.
6. Secure your rain barrel to the house with aluminum banding & screws.
7. Enjoy your rainbarrel!

## What You'll Need:

- ✓ Drill
- ✓ 6" Hole Saw
- ✓ 29/32" Drill Bit
- ✓ 3/4" Pipe Tap
- ✓ Louvered Screen
- ✓ 3/4" Brass Faucet
- ✓ Teflon Tape or All Purpose Caulk
- ✓ 3/4" Hose Adapter
- ✓ Plumbers Pipe Strap and Deck Screws

