



# Rain Barrels

## Overall Purpose:

To create a system that collects and holds rain water from rooftops that would otherwise have been lost in the form of runoff (water leaving your property). By collecting the water and storing it in the barrel, it is kept from flowing over land & paved surfaces where it would pick up pollutants, such as fertilizers, pet waste and oils, and eventually be discharged into local waterways.

## Benefits:

- Rain barrels conserve water and save money. They provide a free source of water during peak summer months and can collect up to 1,300 gallons of rain water.
- Collected rain water contains no chlorine, lime or calcium, making it ideal for watering gardens, flowers, trees and shrubs, and washing cars.
- By reducing the amount of runoff, rain barrels can help improve the water quality in local waterways.
- Rain barrels help to reduce your dependence on treated tap water. It also provides an alternate source of water for your plants during drought periods.

## Before starting:

- If you received your rain barrel from the landfill, an inlet hole, overflow hole and 2 spigot holes have already been cut to the appropriate size and you can skip steps A-D. The second spigot hole, located about halfway up the barrel, can be used to more easily fill a watering can. The second, middle spigot is an optional feature and may not be needed or found on other barrels.
- Choose a location for your rain barrel- it should be close to the area you will be watering.
- Create a level surface where the rain barrel will sit- you can use cinder blocks or a sturdy wooden crate.
  - \*\*Keep in mind that gravity contributes to the overall waterflow pressure. Raising the rain barrel off the ground adds more pressure to the system.
- Modify the chosen downspout so it is located above the inlet opening. This generally involves cutting off a portion of the downspout and fitting it with a flexible gutter elbow.
- Check with your H.O.A. or Community Association before installing. Painting your barrel is optional, unless required by your H.O.A. Spray-on paint seems to last much longer than roll-on paint which can crack and peel over time.

For more information visit: [www.livegreenhoward.com](http://www.livegreenhoward.com)



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**Complete assembly parts kits (excluding barrel) are available for sale at a reduced price at:**

**Kendall Hardware  
12260 Clarksville Pike  
Clarksville, MD 21029  
(410) 531-2111**

## **Materials:**

1. 55 gallon barrel
2. Cinder blocks or sturdy wooden crate
3. 12" window screen, landscape fabric or pool strainer
4. Staples or glue
5. (2) ½" brass boiler drain MPT (spigots)\*
6. Garden hose (optional)
7. Flexible gutter elbow
8. Sump Pump Drain Kit (includes the following)
  - a. 24 ft. 1 ¼" flex hose (can be cut to desired length)
  - b. 1 ¼" male adapter
  - c. Hose clamp
9. Teflon tape or silicon sealant

\* The lowest hole, marked D in the instructions below, can have a spigot alone, a spigot with a hose, or a coupling with a hose. Your choice! If you substitute a ½" coupling for the lower spigot, it may reduce the cost by a few dollars.

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## Assembling your Rain Barrel:

**Step A:** cut a 6" inlet hole in the top of the rain barrel (depending on the size of the screen, pool strainer or landscape fabric being used.) This is where the downspout releases water into the barrel.

**Step B:** cut a 1 1/4" hole in the side of the barrel 2-3" from the top to function as an overflow drain.

**Step C:** cut a 1/2" hole on the side, half way up the barrel for the spigot (not directly below hole B).

**Step D:** cut a 1/2" hole on the side, 2" from the bottom of the barrel for the spigot with hose. (not directly below hole B).

**Step E:** insert threaded end of 1 1/4" male adapter into the overflow hole, keeping the adapter straight as you screw it in.

**Step F:** wrap threaded end of spigot with Teflon tape or coat with silicon sealant. Then insert threaded end of spigot into bottom hole. Repeat for inserting spigot into middle hole.

**Step G:** place screen, pool strainer or landscape fabric over inlet hole and secure in place with glue or staples.

**Step H:** slide sump pump hose over the barbed end of the 1 1/4" male adapter and secure with the hose clamp.

**Step I:** (optional) attach garden hose or soaker hose to lower spigot for watering gardens, bushes or larger areas of the yard. The middle spigot is designed to be used to fill watering cans.

Use cinder blocks or a wooden crate to elevate your rain barrel.

