TOOLS & MATERIALS NEED TO MAKE YOUR RAINBARREL

MATERIALS:
- Large plastic barrel
- 3/4” copper water faucet
- 3/4” plastic hose to pipe fitting
- Waterproof Marine sealant
- 2 - 3/4” flat rubber washers
- 2 – 3/4 x 2” electrical galvanized washers
- Short hose

TOOLS:
- 3” Hole saw - optional
- Drill
- 15/16” drill bit
- Pliers

Below: This is the hardware that you need to purchase for the faucet. You can substitute many things that will work just fine. See what you have around home.

RAIN BARREL ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Mark positions for top and bottom holes. Top hole for drainage to the side and bottom hole for faucet on the front of the barrel. Pay attention to where downspout will be located on the very top of the barrel.

BOTTOM

Drill a 15/16” hole about 1-1/2 to 2 inches from the bottom of the barrel. There should be enough distance between the drilled hole and the barrel’s bottom to allow room for attaching a hose after the barrel is completed. High enough so it is off the rounder portion of the barrel. When the faucet is attached to the bottom of the rain barrel at this site, the barrel should be able to sit flat on the ground without the faucet interfering. The hole will be too small for the faucet, so it will need to be carefully expanded on the outside edge to get the threads started on the faucet. This can be done with a knife or the drill.

Squeeze the waterproof sealant around the hole. Place the galvanized washer and the 3/4” rubber washer over the threaded end of the faucet. The rubber washer is the washer that goes against the barrel. From the outside, insert the washer-threaded end through the 15/16” hole at the barrel’s bottom. The hole should be very snug or it will leak. You will have to use pressure and maybe pliers to get it screwed in all the way.

TOP:

Choose the side of the barrel you want the overflow hose to be attached to. Mark the hole and repeat the steps above, but inserting the pipe to hose fitting through this hole with the hose fitting being on the outside of the barrel.

Drill a 15/16” hole about 2” from the top of the barrel for an overflow hole. The hole can also be used to connect the overflow hose or additional rain barrels. Additional rain barrels can be added to the assembly simply by using a hose or PVC hardware.
After these fittings have been attached, plan how you will drain water into the barrel. Often it is best to place the rain barrel in position to determine this.

The canale or downspout can be directed to flow water into the hole at the top of the barrel. Various methods can be used to accommodate the water flow.

The most effective method is to connect directly to downspouts via downspout adapters as shown on right.

The top of the barrel will most likely have a small covered hole that will accommodate the gutter assembly. If there is not a hole, one may be cut into the barrel's top that will accommodate the gutter. Most gutter downspout adapters are 3". So a 3" hole can drilled in one of the openings to accommodate a downspout adapter. Or cut the whole top off and place screen around it. It can be attached with old belts or bungee. This approach is recommended if barrel is to be placed under a canale.

**BASE:**
A base for the rain barrel can be created by using instructions you can download off of our website (http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost/rainbarrel.htm) or by simply using cement cinder blocks or another similar setup. It is important to place the rain barrel in a secure site where it will not tip over or roll. Be aware that it is quite possible for a full barrel to freeze, creating a round bottom that will become unbalanced and tip over. The barrel should sit at least 15" off the ground (high enough to accommodate a pail underneath the faucet). A full rain barrel can weigh over 450 pounds, so exercise extreme caution if you build a platform. Use blocks or something very strong, no wood bases!

**NOTE:** Letting barrel sit in the sun makes threading fittings much easier

**SPECIAL NOTE ON MOSQUITOS:**
Mosquito control can be important. If you choose to build your rainbarrel with an opening that allows access to mosquitos, you should take proper measures to ensure that mosquitos do not breed. There are several forms of mosquito control approaches listed on the website: http://pep.wsu.edu/pdf/PLS121mosquito.pdf.

For more information contact:
www.harvesth2o.com/resources.shtml
doug@harvesth2o.com

HarvestH₂o, LLC
Rain Catchment. Solar Thermal. Irrigation. and Stormwater Management