

MAKE YOUR OWN RAIN BARREL

CAPTURE THE STORM: PROTECT OUR STREAMS AND PONDS



Photo credit: Scott Turnbull

One easy way to help protect lakes, rivers is to redirect your roof gutters and downspouts away from hard surfaces such as your driveway or the nearest street. Instead, direct stormwater to your lawn, flower bed or rain garden. Another option is to store the water in a rain barrel for future use. Whatever options you choose, keeping stormwater off hard surfaces and allowing natural infiltration will keep your property looking great, protect your drinking and recreational waters and maybe even save you money.

What You Will Need

Equipment

- 55 gallon plastic drum
- 3/4" brass hose bibb (faucet)
- 1 1/4" nylon hose barb
- 1 1/4" sump pump hose, 6' long
- Plastic plant pot, 9" round
- Fiberglass window screen
- Section of a bicycle tire tube



Tools

- Saw
- Drill
- 1 5/8" hole saw (for nylon hose barb)
- 1" hole saw (for hose bibb)
- Utility knife or rasp to scrape/ file away burrs on the cut hole



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Step 1. Drill hole in top of barrel and draw outline for widest part of flower pot



Step 2. Cut out hole



Step 3. Cover flower pot with netting, secure with tire strip and insert in hole



Step 4. Drill hole for faucet about 2 inches from bottom with 1-inch hole saw. Wrap plumbers tape around the

Step 5. Drill hole at top of side with 1 5/8th hole saw. Screw hose barb to top



Step 6. Adjusting gutter: After positioning rain barrel in a secure position (rain barrel is heavy when full), cut down spout and add on elbow to direct water into opening.



Photo credit: Benjamin Bloom

In the fall empty your rain barrel and store upside-down to keep barrel from cracking.

Pictures of rain barrel in progress courtesy of Beau Baker, Bridging the Gap, <http://www.bridgingthegap.org>