

Make a Rain Barrel

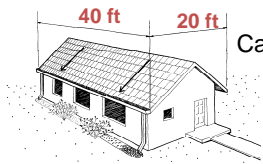


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Kaufman County Master Gardener Association
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Catchment Area



Catchment Area = 40 ft x 20 ft
= 800 square ft

Volume = 800 ft² x 0.62 gallons/inch of rain/ft²
= 496 gallons/inch of rain

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Barrel Components



55 gallon
Barrel



Inlet/Filter



Outlet



Overflow

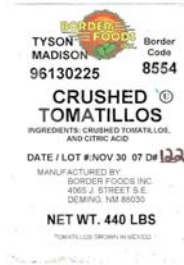


**Use only New or
Food Use Barrels**

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Label off Barrel



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Thoroughly rinse out the barrel before using

Use 1/8 cup of bleach mixed with 5 gallons of water to clean the rain barrel.



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Step 2. Install the outlet (hose spigot)

In this application, we are going to install a 3/4" hose spigot. For this you will need to drill a 15/16" hole for the spigot threading. Drill the hole a few inches (4"-6") from the bottom of the barrel.

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Drilling the spigot hole using a 15/16" hole saw



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Next, screw in the hose spigot about halfway. Make sure the threading is going in straight, as this will help prevent leaking.



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When the spigot is in about **half way** apply a liberal amount of Plumbers Goop to the exposed threads. Continue to screw in the spigot until it is snug and pointing toward the bottom of the barrel.



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Inside the barrel for additional hose bib support:



- Attach a 3/4" male PVC adaptor
- Or a #15 O – ring and 3/4" electrical conduit locknut on the backside of the hose bib.

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The rain barrel outlet is now complete.



Never pick up the barrel by the hose Bibb.

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Overflow

Drill a 2 3/8" hole near the top of the barrel.



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The **2" male adapter** is inserted in the hole and the **2" conduit locknut** is screwed onto the adapter to make the transition to our overflow pipe.



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A 90-degree elbow and a length of 2" PVC pipe are added to carry the water away from the house or to a nearby planter bed.



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A hole saw or any small tooth hand saw can be used to cut the inlet opening.



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Inlet Filter

- Cut the mosquito screen oversize to cover the inlet hole.
- Glue the Mosquito screen to the lid (Plumbers Goop).
- Screw four or more ¼" screws through the screen and into the plastic lid for additional support.



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Build a platform for the barrel



Cinderblock platform

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Stepping stone and white stone base



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Maybe too high and not stable



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rain barrels connected at the hose bib

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Rain Barrels Connected at the Overflow



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Examples - Home Built



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Protect your screens



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Maintenance

- Keep the screen clean/ keep the leaves off.
- Clean out the barrel occasionally



Check Screen for holes or tears

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Mosquito Control



- Floating
- Slow release works up to 30 days
- ¼ Donut per month

Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti)

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More Information

- <http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu>
- www.watermatters.org

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Tools and Supplies

TOOLS	SUPPLIES
Safety Glasses	Rags/Paper Towels
Drill	Vinyl Disposable gloves
Small Tooth Hand Saw	¼ inch lath screws
15/16 inch spade bit or hole saw	3.7 oz. Plumbers Goop
2 3/8 inch hole saw	Sand Paper
Screw driver	
Scissors	
Disposable Putty Knife	

Estimated Cost to Make a Rain

Materials	Description	Estimated Cost	Supplier	Location
Barrels	50 or 55 gallon	\$18.00	Cates Building Supply	Kaufman 972 932 3058
Outlet Valve	3/4" Hose Bib	\$5.59	Lowe's	Forney
Washer	# 15 O-ring	\$1.97	Lowe's	Forney
Locknut	3/4" Electrical Conduit Locknut	\$1.97	Lowe's	Forney
Overflow	2" PVC Sch 40 male adaptor	\$1.69	Lowe's	Forney
Locknut	2" Rigid Electrical Conduit Locknut	\$1.00	Lowe's	Forney
Elbow	2" PVC Sch 40 Elbow	\$0.77	Lowe's	Forney
Pipe	2" x 5' PVC Sch 40 Pipe	\$5.51	Lowe's	Forney
Filter	12" x 12" Mosquito Screen	\$4.00	Cates Building Supply	Kaufman
Total		\$40.50		