

# Rain Barrel Construction

This playbook guides you through the steps necessary to build a rain barrel. This system will allow you to collect and reuse rainwater for various non-potable purposes, such as watering plants or gardening.

## Step 1: **Materials**

Gather all necessary materials including a large plastic barrel, a spigot, washers, a drill with drill bits, Teflon tape, a downspout diverter or flexible downspout, silicone sealant, and a landscape fabric or screen.

## Step 2: **Drill Holes**

Select the location for the spigot, ensuring it's high enough from the bottom to fit a watering can underneath. Drill a hole using the appropriate size drill bit for your spigot. Drill another hole on the lid of the barrel for the downspout diverter or at the top side for the flexible downspout.

## Step 3: **Install Spigot**

Wrap the threads of the spigot with Teflon tape to ensure a watertight seal. Insert the spigot into the hole and secure it with washers and any nuts that came with the spigot kit.

## Step 4: **Seal Joints**

Apply silicone sealant around the outside of the spigot to prevent leaks. Make sure to also apply sealant around the edges of the diverter hole at the top of the barrel.

## Step 5: **Attach Diverter**

Install the downspout diverter into the gutter downspout according to the manufacturer's instructions, and connect it to the hole at the top of the barrel, or attach a flexible downspout to redirect rainwater into the top hole of the barrel.

## Step 6: **Secure Screen**

Cut a piece of landscape fabric or mesh screen to fit over the opening of the barrel to prevent debris and insects from entering. Secure it in place with a tight-fitting lid or appropriate fasteners.

## Step 7: **Position Barrel**

Place the barrel on a stable platform to raise it above ground level. Ensure that it is located near a downspout for easy collection of rainwater. It should be balanced and secure to prevent tipping.

# **General Notes**

## **Barrel Capacity**

Choose a barrel with a capacity suitable for your rainwater collection needs and available space.

## **Water Safety**

Remember that collected rainwater is not potable and should be used for non-drinking purposes only, such as watering the garden.

## **Local Ordinances**

Check with local ordinances before installing a rain barrel, as there may be regulations governing water collection in your area.

## **Overflow**

Plan for an overflow outlet or hose to direct excess water away from the foundation of your house.

## **Maintenance**

Regularly clean the barrel and screen to prevent algae growth and remove any debris or sediment.