

Building a Rain Barrel

NA: Neal Anderson

KF: Kevin Fowler

W: Unidentified Woman

NA: Hello, I will be building a homemade rain barrel with items you can find at your local hardware store. This is what my finished product will look like and I will demonstrate with simple step-by-step instructions on how you can build one for yourself. If you visit our website, <TakeCareofTexas.org>, you can view many useful publications including rainwater harvesting with rain barrels. Please make sure you have all the materials and tools to assemble your own rain barrel. Here's a list of items that I use to put together mine. Including a 32-gallon utility container and a 32-gallon flat trash-can lid that sits directly on the top. A 3/4-inch Schedule 80 PVC closed nipple, a 3/4-inch male hose bibb, a 1-inch flat rubber washer, two 1 x 3/4-inch metal reducing washers, a 3/4- conduit locknut, a small roll of fiberglass window screen, some small screws to secure the screen to the top of the barrel. Here's a list of tools that I'll use to construct my rain barrel: A cordless drill, a utility knife with a new utility-knife blade, a 1-inch paddle bit, a tape measure, a Sharpie or pen to mark my holes to drill, a pair of channel locks and a tube of clear silicone.

Step one: cut a hole in the top of your lid for your water intake. Use your utility knife with your new blade. You want to cut the hole about the size of your gutter downspout.

Step two: mark where you want your faucet to be. On mine it's going to be three inches above the bottom of the barrel. Next, drill your hole where you marked for your faucet, with a 1-inch paddle bit and using your cordless drill.

Step three: make a mark where you want your overflow to be. On mine, I'm going to do three inches from the top of the barrel and slightly to the side. Again use a one inch paddle bit and your cordless drill to drill your hole for your overflow.

For this next step—step four—we're going to be connecting our faucet. I'll be using the three-quarter inch male hose bibb with the 1 x 3/4-inch metal reducing washer. I'll put a layer of silicone right here and this should be to stop any leakage. The next thing we're going to want to do is connect the faucet from the inside of the barrel. We're going to use our inch rubber washer, our 1 x 3/4 metal washer and our 1-inch metal locknut. Use the channel locks to tighten it down.

Step five: connecting your overflow. You're going to want to use the—cut a small piece of screen and use the Schedule 80 nipple. Place the screen over the hole and just screw in your nipple a quarter of the way. Now this'll protect bugs, mostly mosquitoes, from being able to fly into your barrel.

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Step six: we're going to want to cut a piece of screen and set it over the top of the barrel. This is to stop mosquitoes from getting in the barrel and rocks and debris from entering your barrel from the gutter downspout. Take your screws –

Lastly you're going to want to cut the excess screen off the top of the barrel. This is your completed rain barrel.

This is one way you can build a homemade rain barrel. There are many other methods and materials to collect rain. I encourage everyone that is interested in a project like this to make it their own. Please visit <TakeCareofTexas.org> to see our great selection of publications that we have available, including *Rainwater Harvesting*, which is a detailed publication explaining other methods of harvesting rain, and worksheets showing how you can calculate your water yield throughout the year.

KF: *We gotta take care of Texas; it's the only one we got.*

W: Sponsored by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

[7:00 end of video]