

## How to Build a Rain Barrel

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A rain barrel is easy to build, and it gives you the opportunity to capture and store rainwater that might otherwise drain into a gutter.

You'll need:

Plastic food-grade barrel  
2" PVC plastic pipe and fittings  
Inlet filter ( a plastic food storage tub or a slotted pot used for aquatic plants in a backyard pond)  
Faucet with 3/4" threads  
gutter downspout piece at least 16" long  
Corrugated plastic gutter extender

Tools:

Electric drill  
Spade bit - 15/16"  
Hole Bit - 2 3/8"  
Electric jigsaw  
Teflon pipe sealing tape  
PVC pipe glue

1. Cut an opening in the top of the barrel 1/4" smaller in diameter than the chosen inlet filter. The hole should be big enough for the filter to be supported by its rim.  
OPTION: If you have a barrel which has a completely removable lid, you can stretch fiberglass window screen across the top and hold it in place with elastic cord.

2. Use the hole saw to drill a hole 2 3/8" in diameter just below the rim of the barrel. The threads of the 2" PVC to male pipe thread fitting will fit through the hole. Wrap them with several layers of Teflon pipe tape and screw the fitting into place. Secure it with the threaded end of a 2" female threaded PVC fitting



3. Use the 15/16" spade bit to drill a hole in the side of the barrel 2" above the bottom edge. Screw the threads of the faucet into the hole.



4. Use a hacksaw to cut a twelve inch gap in your gutter. Make the top cut 24" above the top of the barrel when it is in its final position.



5. Cut a 16" piece of downspout from the new piece you purchased. One end should be crimped as shown.



6. Cut an opening into the other end of the 16" piece of downspout as shown here.



7. Attach one end of the corrugated gutter extender to the home downspout. Position the other end over the barrel inlet filter.



8. Glue 2" PVC fittings and pipe as needed to direct overflow water away from your home's foundation. When the barrel is full (or when you do not need to store water), you can slip the 16" piece of downspout into place on your home gutter downspout to direct water through it and away from the house.

