



Rain Barrel Installation Tips

- ◆ **Place your rain barrel** on a surface that is flat and level. A good base can be made of cinder blocks, landscaping blocks, or a well built wooden box.
- ◆ **Some assembly is necessary.** Each barrel includes a stainless steel screen, a 4-foot section of hose, and a 90-degree angle PVC connector. The screen sets inside the 3" hole on the top of the barrel. The elbow fittings threaded end screws into the tapped hole on the side of the barrel and faces downward. The 4' section of hose connects to the other unthreaded end creating the overflow to drain excess rainwater away from the house. To drain rainwater further away from the foundation, a longer 1.5" sump pump tubing can be purchased at most hardware stores. The spigot is turned slightly sideways to allow for an easy connection to a hose.
- ◆ **If you have gutters** on your roof, place your barrel under the down spout so water flows directly onto the top of the barrel.
- ◆ **If you do not have gutters**, but have an area on your roof where there is a valley or steady stream of rain off the roof during a rainstorm, simply place your rain barrel so that the rain will stream onto the top of the barrel.
- ◆ **If you have a down spout** that goes directly into an existing dry well or draining system, you may want to purchase a rain diverter to funnel the rainwater to the top of the barrel. When the diverter is closed, it connects your down spout back into your drain system during the winter months when you do not want to collect rainwater.



- ◆ **Down Spout Diverters (Optional)** The rainwater diverter is installed directly to the down spout to direct water onto your rain barrel. In the winter or when your barrel is full the diverter arm can be closed and the diverter becomes part of your down spout bypassing the collection system. The Diverter may be used with plastic or metal gutters and can be painted to match your down spouts.

A hack saw, 4 sheet metal screws, and a screw driver are all you need to attach a down spout diverter. Diverters come in two sizes. The 2"x3" is the most common.

- ◆ **If you are planning to use drip irrigation** or have a garden that is level or slightly uphill from the barrel it will be necessary to raise the barrel. By raising the barrel 2 feet off of the ground, you will be able to easily fill a watering can or use gravity to water your plants.
- ◆ **If you have purchased two** or more rain barrels and want to connect them, a connector kit (not included) allows you to connect the barrels.

◆ **Rain Barrel Connector Kit**

Simply unscrew the over flow elbow on the second barrel and replace the elbow with a connector tee. Measure how much overflow tubing you will need between barrels and cut to fit. Shorten the overflow hose on the original barrel to keep the hose from sagging from the weight of the water as it flows through it. Use a clamp is to secure the tubing to the tee. Attach the overflow for the second barrel to the other side and direct water away from the foundation.