

HOW TO BUILD A RAIN BARREL



Visit rdno.ca/conservation for more water conservation tips!

Using a rain barrel is a simple and effective way to conserve water in the North Okanagan - and it's easier than you might think to build your own!

Materials you will need:

- 55-gallon food-grade barrel
- 1 ½ & ¾ inch bulkhead fittings
- ¾ inch ball valve faucet
- Teflon tape
- 1 ½ inch overflow adapter
- 1 ½ inch hose (at least 6 inches long)
- 1/8 inch screen (8x8) and 2-6 flowerpots
- Downspout connector and screws

Tools you will need:

- Drill
- 5 ½ inch hole saw (or jig saw)
- 1 3/16 drill bit
- 1 ½ hole saw
- Rasp or round file
- Rubber mallet
- Flat head screwdriver

STEP 1 INSTRUCTIONS

1. Clean the barrel by using ¼ cup of vinegar and rinsing it thoroughly to remove previous contents and debris. DO NOT use bleach.
2. Use the 5 ½ hole saw, or jig saw, to cut a hole in the top of your barrel for the downspout inlet.
3. Drill a 1 ½ hole at least 4 inches from the base of the barrel for the bulkhead fitting and faucet.
4. Drill a 3-inch hole for the overflow 6 inches from the top of the barrel and 90 degrees from the faucet.

1



STEP 2 INSTRUCTIONS

1. Insert the $\frac{3}{4}$ male bulkhead fitting through the corresponding hole from the inside. Thread and secure the female fitting from the outside. Use a long stick wrapped with tape (sticky side out) to hold the male bulkhead fitting inside the barrel.
2. Wrap facet threads tightly with Teflon tape and twist the threaded faucet into the bulkhead fitting.
3. Insert the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch male bulkhead fitting through the corresponding hole from the inside. Thread and tightly secure the female fitting from the outside.

2



3



STEP 3 INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place the rain barrel on the prepared site.
2. Attach a hose to the overflow to direct water away from your home. Insert the flowerpot into the 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch hole in the top. Set an 8x8 screen into place and put 2nd flowerpot inside.
3. Cut the downspout 14 inches above the top of the rain barrel. Secure a flexible downspout attachment and make minor adjustments as needed. Check to ensure all fittings are secure.

Where to put your Barrel:

- Choose a location close to a downspout.
- Clean an area the size of your barrel and make sure the ground is level.
- Create an elevated structure to create more water pressure, ensuring the structure can safely hold the 200-pound weight of a full barrel. Two cinder blocks work well.

Other Rain Barrel Tips:

- Do not rely on your rain barrel for drinking water.
- Ensure the barrel is made from food-grade materials. Used barrels are an inexpensive and environmentally friendly choice!
- Screen or close any openings to keep out pests and bugs.
- Before the temperature drops below freezing, disconnect and empty the barrel, leaving the faucet open to prevent ice damage.