

Homeowners Guide: Rain Barrel Installation



To reduce runoff from our properties, one of the easiest practices to install is a rain barrel. Rain barrels capture rain water from your roof straight from the downspout. Water captured in the rain barrel can be used to irrigate your lawn or water plants in the garden between rains. When the barrel is full you can use a diverter or overflow hose to direct water from the downspout away from your home's foundation.

This guide will walk you through installing a rain barrel, and building a simple stand for your barrel using 2x4s.



Rain Barrel Installation



Drill a hole near the bottom for the spigot. Drill a hole near the top if needed for an overflow fitting (diverter not used).



For overflow, install a diverter on the downspout that can be closed when the barrel is full. Or attach an elbow to the downspout and install an overflow fitting on the barrel to connect a hose to redirect overflow.



Level the area where the stand and barrel will be located. Place barrel on the stand beneath the downspout. Mark where to cut the downspout for the diverter or downspout elbow.

Supplies Needed

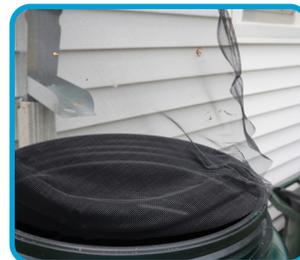
- Rain Barrel
- Spigot
- Rubber washers (2)
- Plastic nut
- Overflow fitting
- Screen
- Diverter or downspout elbow
- Sheet metal screws



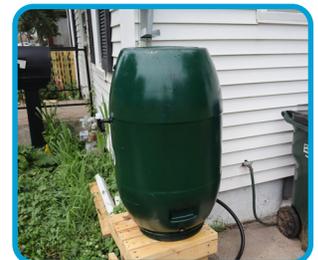
Cut the downspout with a reciprocating saw like a Sawzall or a hack saw. Make sure the cut is straight.



Install diverter (shown) by putting a sheet metal screws through the tabs and downspout, or downspout elbow with sheet metal screws and screwdriver.



After installation, periodically remove debris from the screen on top of barrel. Replace the screen when necessary.



For winter maintenance before freezing temperatures, empty barrel and invert or divert water from barrel. Weigh down barrel if located in a windy spot.

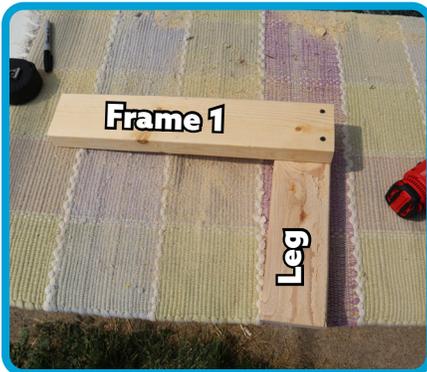
Rain Barrel Stand Construction



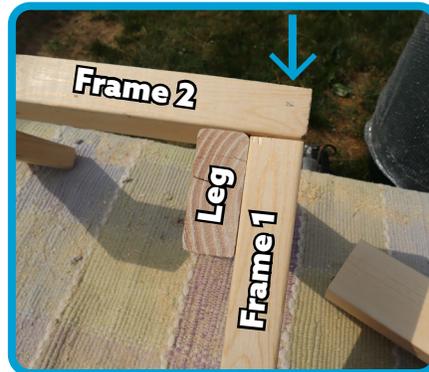
Supplies Needed

- 3 inch wood screws
- 8 foot green treated lumber 2x4s (4)
- Power Drill
- Phillips head bit
- Miter saw
- Tape measure

Assembly



Cut four 13" pieces for the legs, and four 18" pieces for the frame. Screw each frame piece to each leg at a right angle as shown.



Screw the free end of each frame piece into the leg end of the next frame piece.



Measure across the frame from outside to outside (in this case it was 19.5"). Cut five boards and screw into the top of the frame.



Cut four more 18" frame pieces and screw in at the bottom of the legs.



If preferred, you can sand, stain, and/or paint your rain barrel stand. Set up and enjoy your new rain barrel!



You can also make a stand out of cinder blocks! Make sure to level the area before placing the cinder blocks.