

make your own rain barrel!

what you will need:

your barrel from Scraps & Polidori!

(2) flat washers, 1/2-inch

rubber O-ring, 1/2-inch

drill

Utility knife

cinder blocks / other means of elevating barrel

optional: spraypaint or other paint

hose bib/spigot (choose lead-free!)

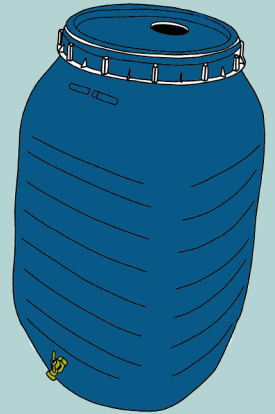
locknut, 1/2-inch

spade bit, 1/2-inch

clear silicone caulk

caulk gun

hacksaw



how to make it:

1. Decide where you will locate your barrel, and make sure you have a rain chain or downspout from your gutter that will reach all the way to the top of the barrel.
2. Level the ground. Using cinder blocks or otherwise, elevate the barrel appropriately. (If you are going to paint your barrel, this is a good opportunity to do so, with it off the ground & before you cut holes!)
3. Use the spade bit, small hacksaw, knife or other means to cut a hole in the lid, where the water will enter. You can also staple a piece of mesh/screen over the hole to prevent large debris from entering.
4. Use the spade bit to drill a hole where you want to place the spigot. It should be just a few inches from the bottom of the barrel, but high enough to fit a watering can or hose underneath.
5. Load the caulking gun with silicone and make a circle of caulk around the opening you drilled.
6. Place the O-ring and washer at the end of the spigot, and screw them all into the hole together.
7. Apply another thin ring of silicone around the spigot where it pokes through the inside of the barrel, and place the second washer and then the locknut around the spigot to secure it in place.

All set! Tip: Let the silicone dry a few days, and test the seal by adding water manually to just above the spigot level. If it does not leak, you are ready to collect rainwater!

Pro tip: plant a rain garden at the base of your barrel!

