

How to make a rain barrel

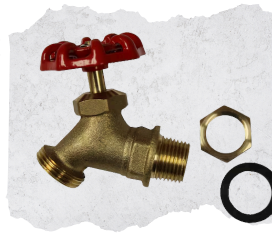
Ready to get started? Simple and easy step-by-step instructions are below. This is only one way to assemble a rain barrel. Check online for other DIY methods!

1. Gather materials

Source a plastic food-grade barrel. In the Lethbridge region, consult with food processors, distributors, or local shops. Use the supply list provided in this guide.

2. Install the spigot at the bottom

Drill a hole near the bottom with your $\frac{3}{4}$ inch spade bit and drill. Tightly wrap the Teflon tape around the thread of the spigot in the direction that the fitting will turn. The spigot might come with a metal and rubber washer. If not, these need to be purchased separately. Place the rubber washer on the thread, screw it into the barrel and fasten it on the inside with the metal washer.



3. Install the inlet at the top and cut downspout

Using your metal snips or hacksaw, cut your downspout to the appropriate length so it sits at the top of your barrel. Next, you will want to install a debris screen to keep unwanted debris and mosquitos out of your rainwater. This can be a colander, landscape fabric, or mesh screen. Cut a hole in the top and put in your screen. You may need to secure this with rocks, glue, or some other type of adhesive.



4. Position rain barrel and seal openings

Decide where to place the rain barrel. You may want to elevate the barrel so that you can fit a watering can or bucket underneath it. Seal any openings before using your rain barrel.



Supply List

- Barrel
- Debris filter (screen)
- Spigot
- Rubber washer
- Metal washer
- Metal snips or hacksaw
- Drill
- $\frac{3}{4}$ inch spade bit
- Teflon tape
- Sealant
- Glue or adhesive

Questions?

Call 311

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

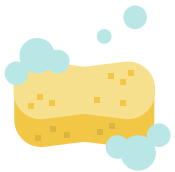
Caring for a rain barrel

You will want to keep your rain barrel in working condition after it is installed. Some considerations are below.



Managing algae

If possible, keep the rain barrel out of direct sunlight and be sure to use the water so it doesn't sit long enough to accumulate organic growth.



Keeping it clean

Use a filter to keep the water free of debris. This will keep the spigot from clogging and reduce the likelihood of organic growth.



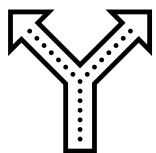
Winterizing

Your rain barrel should not be out over the winter. Either flip it upside down or remove it completely. Water will accumulate in the bottom of the barrel during our freeze/thaw season and freeze. This expanding ice can bust the bottom open, leaving you with a leaking and unusable rain barrel!



Downspout alternative for winter

When you remove or turn your rain barrel upside down in the winter, you will need to re-attach or re-route your house's downspout to continue to divert water away from your home and foundation for the winter season.



Diverting away from your foundation

Be sure your rain barrel diverts water away from your house foundation. The land should slope away from your home by 1 inch per foot for 5-10 feet.

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