

Spring 2005 Watershed Tip:

Build your own rain barrel



Getting Started

Generally a rain barrel consists of three main components: a barrel, a top hole, an upper drain, and a lower drain.

- **Plastic 55-gallon drums** are the recommended type of barrel to use for safely collecting water with minimal leaking. [Habitat ReStore](#) and [Bridging the Gap](#) recycling centers are currently selling 55-gallon drums for a small fee.

If you're having trouble locating the right type of barrel, please contact [MARC Water Resources](#) for the names of other suppliers.

- A **top hole** should be cut in the top of the barrel for collecting water. Insert a skimmer basket like those found in garden ponds and swimming pools to filter out leaves and other debris. It is important to cover the basket with fiberglass window screen to prevent mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects from entering the barrel.

- The **top drain** is a plastic faucet that should always be left in the "open" position to keep the barrel from overflowing.

- The **bottom drain** is a plastic faucet that attaches to a hose for watering lawns and gardens. This faucet should be kept in the "closed" position when not in use.

Tools

- 7/8" spade drill bit
- Electric jigsaw
- Electric drill
- Utility knife
- Marker

Supplies

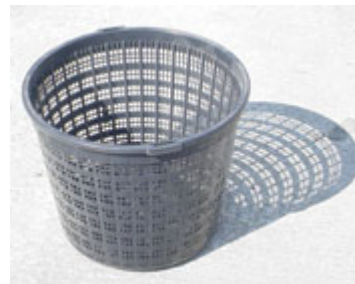
- 1 - 55-gallon plastic barrel
- 2 - 3/4" plastic faucet
- 1 - 3/4" female coupling
- 1 - Skimmer basket
- 1 - Roll of teflon tape
- 1 - All purpose caulk or plumbing sealant
- 1 - 5-ft. section of garden hose
- 4 - Hose couplers
- 1 - 12" x 12" piece of fiberglass window screen



55-Gallon barrel



Finished rain barrel



Skimmer basket

