



# Keep DeKalb Beautiful Rain Barrel Project - "How To" Fact Sheet

A rain barrel is a rainwater harvesting system that is connected to a downspout from a house or building. By collecting rainwater, one can save energy, water, and money. Rain barrels also help reduce erosion and storm water runoff and increase water quality.

**How do I set up a Rain Barrel system at my house, school or office?** There are two options: purchase pre-made rain barrels or create your own.

**The following instructions are for creating your own barrel.**

Obtain the following materials:

- ✦ a sturdy barrel
- ✦ mesh screen
- ✦ plastic faucet
- ✦ steel washer
- ✦ #12 o-ring
- ✦ ¾" flat steel washer
- ✦ 24" zip tie
- ✦ ½" plastic faucet
- ✦ plastic elbow
- ✦ 6" plastic drain cover
- ✦ 1" plug

Tools/Equipment needed:

- ✦ drill
- ✦ 1" bit (for ½" faucet and plug)
- ✦ jig saw
- ✦ scissors
- ✦ channel lock or wrench

**Step 1.** Cut an opening in the top of the barrel the size of the drain cover.

**Step 2.** Cut a piece of mesh screen slightly larger than the drain cover. Secure the mesh screen to the drain cover with the zip tie. Insert the drain cover into the opening on top of the barrel.

**Step 3.** Drill one hole at the bottom to drain the barrel. Put the plug in the bottom hole.

**Step 4.** Drill a hole for the faucet (hole should be arm length from the top of the barrel).

**Step 5.** Place the faucet into the hole in the barrel.

**Step 6.** Slide an o-ring over the faucet, then slide the steel washer over the faucet threads. Place the faucet into the hole in the barrel and screw a plastic elbow onto the assembly from the inside of the barrel.

**Step 6.** Cut the downspout from your home to just above the rain barrel. You can attach the downspout flex elbow to the downspout in needed.

**Step 7.** Slide the rain barrel under the spout lining up the mesh screen opening with the spout. Spray water on the roof and check to make sure the rain barrel and mesh opening are in the right location.

**Step 8.** Optional: paint your rainbarrel using Krylon Fusion paint.

**Step 9.** Use water collected with rain barrel for gardening purposes. It is not advisable to use rain barrel water in a vegetable garden.

**For Questions or Concerns, please contact Keep DeKalb Beautiful at:**

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