

## **Building your own rain barrel**

Decide where to place the barrel — many people put them under a downspout for easy attachment. Also consider the distance to your plants, gardens and flowerbeds.

If you don't have gutters, put the barrel under a valley in the roof that sheds a lot of water. Be sure to put a screen over the open barrel to keep out debris, small animals and insects. This will take a lot longer to fill, but may be more practical for your location.

### **Tips for using your rain barrel**

- - Do not use collected water for drinking, cooking or bathing.
  - Keep the lid secure so children or animals cannot fall into the barrel.
  - Disconnect the barrel during the winter to avoid constant overflow during the rainiest months. Attach it in the early spring to fill it for use.
  - Most recycled barrels need to be cleaned before first use.
  - If a moss killer has been used on the roof let a couple of rainfall events go by before collecting the roof runoff.
  - Elevate your rain barrel slightly to make access to the spigot easier.
  - The screened louver vent will prevent mosquitoes from breeding in your barrel.
  - Consider joining multiple barrels for additional capacity

## **Step 1. Clean the barrel**

Use food-quality containers, not ones that held harsh chemicals. Rinse the inside of the barrel with a mixture of 1/8 cup of bleach and 5 gallons of water to wash away food or juice remnants.

### **Step 2. Install a hose spigot**

To install a 3/4" hose spigot, drill a 15/16" hole for the spigot threading just a few inches from the bottom of the barrel. This will provide a few inches of clearance for attaching a hose or filling a watering can and allow for debris to settle below the outlet to reduce clogging.

### **Step 3. Build a platform**

Concrete cinder blocks provide a strong, stable and level platform for your rain barrel. If you use more than one layer of blocks, stack them in a crisscross pattern so they won't tip over.

### **Step 4. Connect downspout to barrel**

Position the barrel at its set height and measure where you need to cut or disconnect your downspout. Often you can disassemble the downspout at the gutter by taking out screws or drilling out rivets. If you do have to cut it off, use a fine-toothed hacksaw blade or tin snips. A flexible downspout extender makes an easy transition from the downspout to your barrel lid and eliminates the need for exact measurement because it bends and stretches to the length you need.

### **Step 5. Cut barrel opening**

Place the downspout connection in the barrel. If your barrel comes with a lid, or if it has a sealed top, you will need to cut a hole in it.

### **Overflows and multiple barrels**

You may want to connect an overflow pipe or link multiple barrels together. An overflow

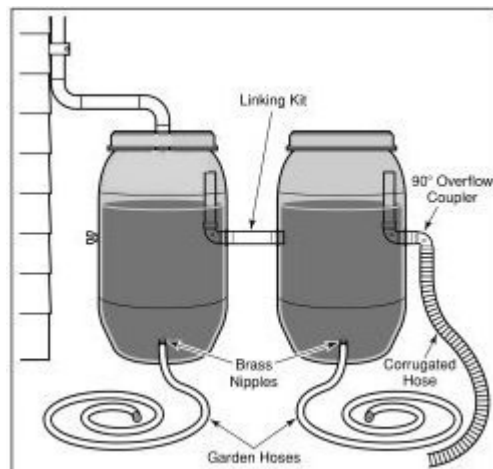
pipe will carry excess water that would normally overflow the barrel to another part of the yard or into another rain barrel; this is a great way to reduce water around the foundation of your house during rain.

Go to this site to watch a video on how to do this,  
<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conser...in-barrel.html>

I found this to give an idea or to just purchase a way to link multiple barrels together and rotate you water!!!!  
Here is the link; <http://www.urbangardencenter.com/pro...ndex.html#link>



#### URB LINKING KIT



Expand water storage to 114 gallons or more. You can increase your rain storage capacity by linking the Urban Rain Barrels together in a series.

This linking kit allows you to connect two URBs together. You can link as many barrels together as you like as long as you keep them on a solid level surface and all at the same elevation. You need one linking kit per additional barrel.

This kit contains a PVC connection with rubber gaskets for the additional barrel and a length of 1.5" hose to connect the two units.  
\$14.50 with free shipping to lower 48 states

Here is another linking idea;

This is a gravity based system. Water follows the path of least resistance so make sure your second rain barrel sits below the level of the first rain barrel, and the overflow port on the second rain barrel is cut below the level of the inlet.

**Basic steps for installing the Aquabarrel multi-rain barrel linking kit.**

1. Install all hose assemblies on the bottom of the barrels
2. Place barrels in position on top of the supports (concrete blocks work well)
3. Mark location of overflow port holes to be drilled on the additional barrel and cut out
4. Install overflow ports
5. Mark, cut and install overflow 4" connection tube
6. Mark cut and install garden hose connector

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Align rain barrels on top of supports



Install overflow connection tube



Measure, cut, install female fitting on end of garden hose



The second rain barrel must be below the first so the rain barrel can drain from the higher to the lower one.

**Your finished multi - rain barrel project may look like this    2 rain barrels connected together when completed.**





Here is the website link;

[http://www.aquabarrel.com/learn\\_link\\_kit\\_install.php](http://www.aquabarrel.com/learn_link_kit_install.php)

Okay, one more!!! Sorry, I am a visual person.

Any other ideas are appreciated!!

Kam 😊

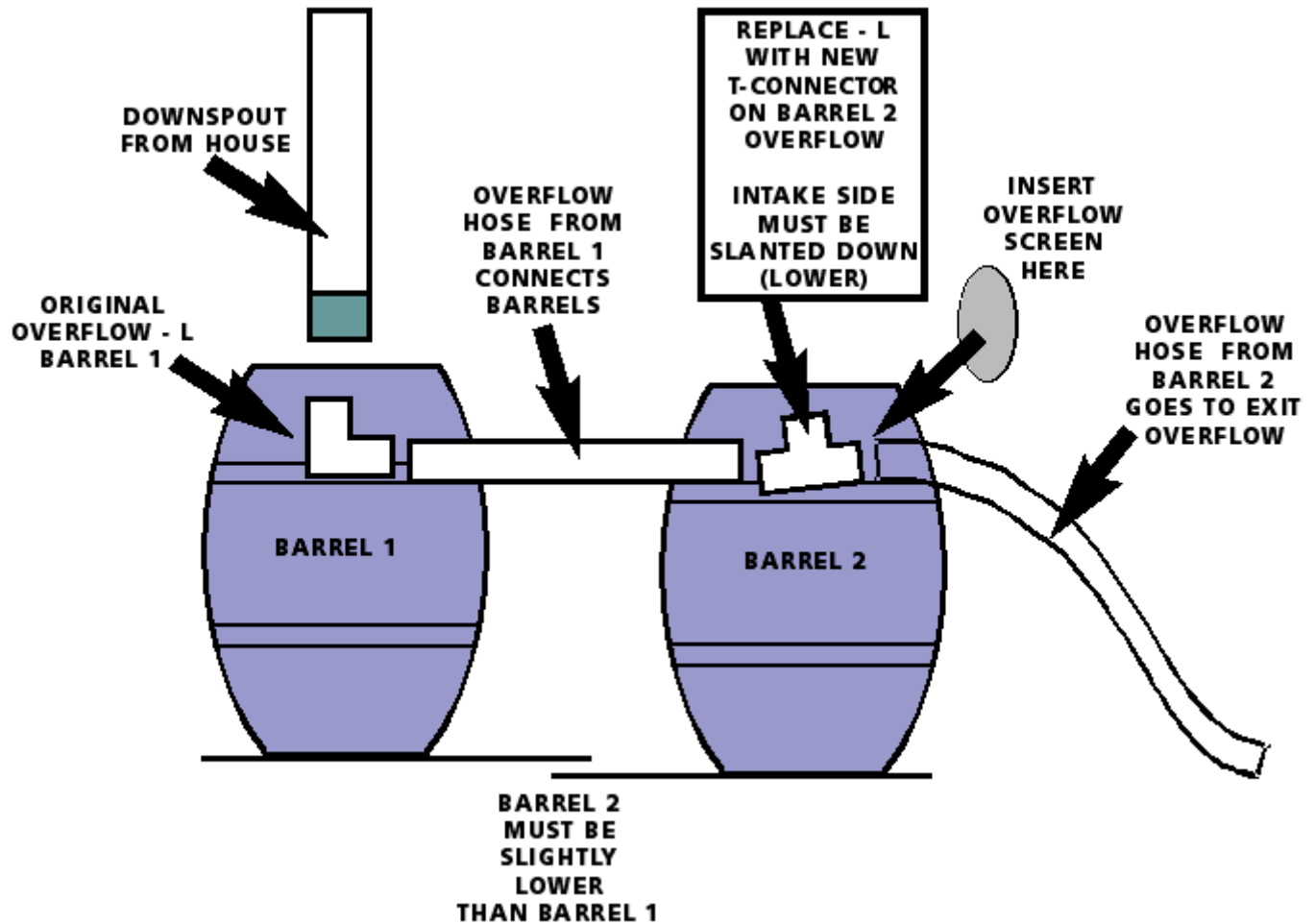
## Linking Barrels

Two or more barrels can be connected together by replacing the overflow fitting

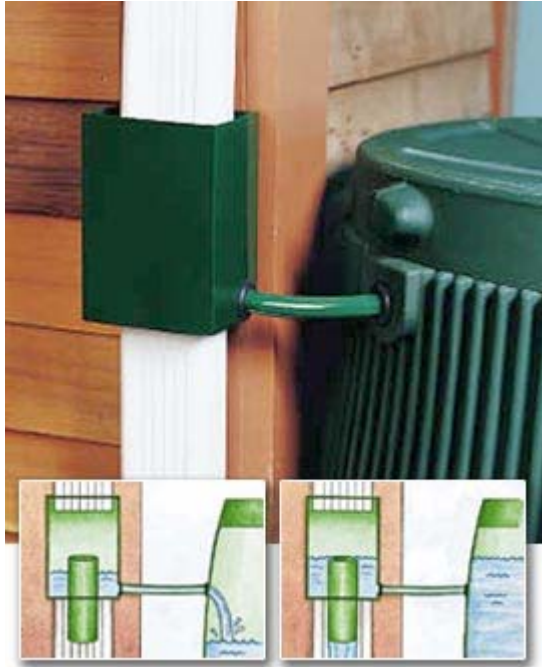
on Rain Barrel 2 with a special T Connector.

1. Locate 1st barrel in position desired under downspout.
2. Position 2nd barrel next to it, preferably less than 1 foot away.
3. Remove the overflow hose and fitting from barrel 2.  
(unscrew)

4. Thread the new T connector into the second barrel (and turn until the two open ends are horizontally parallel to ground).
5. Now attach overflow hose from Rain Barrel 1 to closest side of the T connector on Rain Barrel 2. Cut hose as necessary to prevent unnecessary slack between barrels.
6. Take the original overflow hose removed from barrel 2, and connect to the other side of the T connector. Please note that there is a small screen that is located between the original 'L' fitting and the overflow hose that was on barrel 2. Remove this screen and insert between hose and T connector (exit side) to prevent insect and animal entry into the barrel from the overflow.
7. Turn the T connector on barrel 2 so that it is slightly higher on the exit side than it is on the entry side. By doing this, water will flow into the 2nd barrel (until full) rather than flowing straight through the connection.



Here is the site; <http://www.rainbarrel.net/connect.html>



This is a picture of a catch attached to your down spout, so when your barrels are filled the rain water will continue to flow, and not back up with pressure. This picture is of a handy manufactured item from this site;

<http://www.gardeners.com/Downspout+D...efault,pd.html>

But you can make your own, like as in this picture and from this site; <http://www.sky-bolt.com/Rainbarrels.htm>

The downspout has been interrupted with a sacrificed (gasp!) Tupperware container modified with PVC plumbing fittings to act as a diverter. A pipe to the barrel drains the container, but above the pipe opening is collar that opens back into the downspout. When the barrel fills, the pipe fills and the rest of the rainwater continues down the downspout into the [French drain](#) system.

BUILD YOUR OWN RAIN BARREL

55-Gallon barrel

Finished rain barrel

Skimmer basket

Hose and coupler

Jigsaw cutting the top hole

Installing upper drain

Installing lower drain

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



Overflow container

directs water back

into downspout .

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 faucets
- 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

#### Top Hole

- Use basket to trace template on barrel
- Pre-drill small hole using 1" spade bit
- Make sure to drill inside the line
- Use a jigsaw to cut out hole following the inside line

#### Upper Drain

- Mark holes at least two inches from top of barrel
- Use 1" drill bit to drill hole
- Screw plastic faucet into hole
- Use utility knife as needed to alter hole
- Wrap 3/4" coupling threads in Teflon tape and caulk and screw onto faucet inside the barrel

#### Bottom Drain

- Mark holes at least two inches from bottom of barrel
- Use 1" drill bit to drill hole
- Screw plastic faucet into hole. Use utility knife, as needed, to increase hole size
- Remove faucet, wrap threads in tape, caulk threads, replace faucet
- Caulk area where faucet and barrel meet to reduce leakage

#### Attaching Hoses

- Cut 2' section of hose
- Push each end of hose into a hose coupler and tighten screws
- Screw 3' section onto top outflow faucet and 2" section to bottom faucet

#### Final Steps

- Build a base to elevate the rain barrel
- Adjust downspout to flow into rain barrel
- Always keep overflow valve open

