

## Instructions for Building Your Own Rain Barrel

*Created by Georgia Adopt-A-Stream*

### Step 1: Purchase the following items:

- New sturdy trash can. You can also use a 55-gallon food grade plastic drum; check your local yellow pages under barrels for a dealer.
- Tube of sealant or adhesive caulk
- Mesh screen
- ½ inch faucet
- Down spout flex elbow
- 3 bricks
- 1 inch plug (optional)



### Step 2: Drill three holes

Drill two holes for overflow near the top of the trash can or barrel.

Drill one hole approximately 6-inches from the bottom; this hole should be the same size as your faucet opening (for a ½ inch faucet use a 7/16 drill).

With a barrel, it is recommended you drill a fourth hole at the very bottom for drainage.

### Step 3: Attach the faucet

Screw the faucet into the bottom opening and secure both sides with sealant or adhesive.

### Step 4: Attach mesh screen to the top of the barrel

On the trash can lid, cut a 6x6 inch circular or square-shaped opening. Cover the opening with a mesh screen and apply sealant or adhesive to attach the screen to the lid.

If you are using a 55-gallon drum, cut an opening that is approximately 1/3 the size of the top. Cover the opening with the mesh screen and secure using the sealant or adhesive.

Cut two-pieces of mesh screen, slightly larger than 1 inch, to cover the overflow holes at the top of the trash can or barrel. Use a sealant or adhesive to attach. If you drilled a drainage hold on the bottom, insert a plug into it.

### Step 5: Close the rain barrel

Attach the trash can lid to the can.

### Step 6: Set the rain barrel in your location

Choose an area that is easily accessible and level. Place the rain barrel on 3 bricks next to the gutter downspout you wish to capture the water from. Elevating the rain barrel helps to increase water pressure and will provide clearance for attaching a hose or placing a water pail under the faucet.

**Step 7: Prepare the gutter downspout and place it above the rain barrel**

Cut the downspout to just above the rain barrel. Attach the downspout flex elbow to the downspout and position it so that the opening is in line with the mesh screen of the rain barrel. Spray water on the roof and check to make sure the rain barrel and mesh opening are aligned correctly.

**Step 8 (optional): Paint your rain barrel!**

You can choose to paint your rain barrel to match your house, or to turn it into a piece of art! You can use any paint, but one formulated for plastic, such as Krylon Fusion paint, will work best.