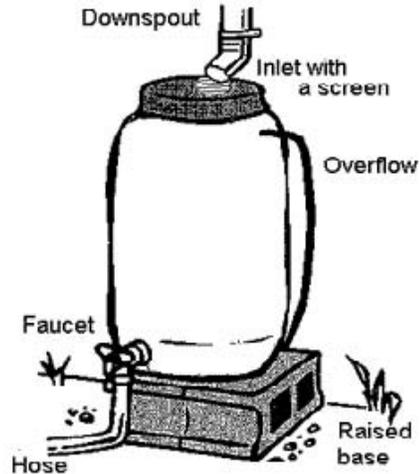


## Instructions for Making a Rain Barrel

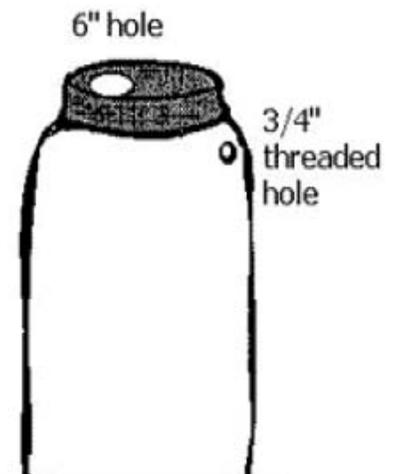
### Getting Started

- Obtain a 55-gallon food grade or other heavy-duty plastic barrel. Plastic trash cans work as well.
- If it previously had food or any other non-toxic product in it, rinse your barrel out thoroughly. Avoid using bleach, as it is environmentally harmful. For an environmentally safe soap solution use 2 teaspoons of castile soap and 2 teaspoons of vinegar or lemon juice for every gallon of water used to clean your barrel. Do not use a barrel that held toxic materials
- Tool and Material list is pictured on the final page.



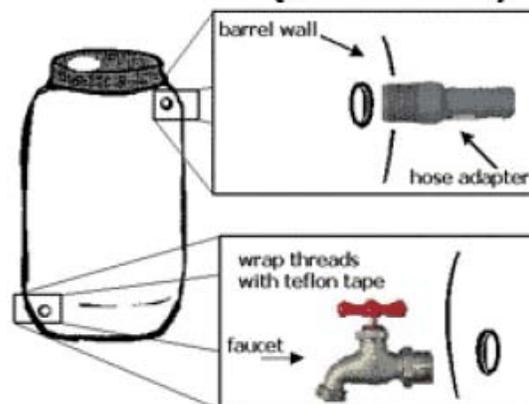
### Step 1

- Use a 6" hole saw, saber saw, keyhole saw, or drywall saw to cut a round 6" hole in the bottom of the bucket.  
If the lid of your barrel is shaped in a way that will collect water, the bucket is not necessary; you may drill the 6" hole directly into the barrel lid if you prefer.
- Use a hacksaw or other tool to create a round hole in the lid of the barrel that will snugly fit the 1 gallon bucket.
- Drill two holes with a 29/32" drill bit, one towards the top for an overflow and one towards the bottom of the barrel for the faucet.
- Next use a 3/4" NPT pipe tap and twist it into the upper 29/32" hole, then repeat the same process for the lower 29/32" hole. This will create threads in the barrel wall.



### Step 2

- Wrap threads on hose adapter with Teflon tape.
- At the hole near the top of the barrel, twist the threaded side of the hose adapter into the barrel.
- Prepare the threaded side of the brass faucet by:
  1. Wrapping it tightly with Teflon tape, make four or five rotations until all the threads are covered
  2. Applying a thin ribbon of caulk on the thread side of the flange (to form seal against barrel wall).
- Twist in the threaded end of the faucet into the hole towards the bottom of the barrel.
- Apply caulk around both fixtures on the inside of the barrel (you may have to lay it on its side and crawl inside to reach).



### Step 3

- Cover the 6" hole in the bucket (or barrel lid) by inserting the 6" louvered screen. The louvered side is up and the screen side down.
- If the bucket does not fit snugly into the lid, apply a ribbon of caulk around the large opening of the barrel lid and press the bucket into place. This is to keep out mosquitoes.
- Use the hacksaw to cut your downspout to a length that just fits inside the bucket. [If not using the bucket, cut the downspout to 4" above the barrel. Add the elbow that was on the downspout and insert it into the freshly cut gutter downspout to direct flow to the louvered screen.]
- Level the ground beneath the barrel and put the cinder blocks in place. Adjust them so that they tilt slightly away from your house. Remember that a full barrel can weigh over 450lbs! Make sure the base is stable.
- Slide a hose or 3/4"ID clear plastic hose onto the hose adapter at the top of barrel to direct the overflow water away from your home. The distance to an appropriate discharge area will determine the length of the hose. This is an important feature. A full barrel has the potential to spill additional water over the top and may cause localized erosion or excess water at the foundation of your home. By installing a long overflow you will avoid these potential problems.
- Clamp hose to the hose adaptor.
- Add a hose on the faucet, or keep it available to fill a watering can.

Enjoy your rain barrel!



### 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.
- To avoid constant overflow during the rainiest weeks, attach a soaker hose to the faucet and leave in the open position.
- Since some roofing material may release chemicals into runoff; it is not advised that you use this water for food plants.
- The screened louver vent should prevent mosquitoes from breeding in your barrel. However, you may find a product like Mosquito Dunk useful as added control.
- Consider joining multiple barrels at the overflow tube for additional capacity!

**Tool List**

Drill



6" Hole Saw



A saber saw, keyhole saw, or drywall saw will also work.

29/32" Drill Bit



3/4" NPT Pipe Tap



Safety Goggles



Hacksaw



**Material List**

Teflon Tape



3/4" Clear Plastic Hose



1 Gallon Bucket



Cinder Blocks (2)



6" Louvered Screen



3/4" Brass Faucet



Teflon Tape or All Purpose Caulk



3/4" Hose Adapter



3/4" Hose Clamp



\*Modified from the websites of the cities of [Bremerton WA](#), [Cary NC](#) and the [Environmental Protection Agency](#)