

Instructions for Making a Rain Barrel

Getting Started

- ❖ Obtain a 55-gallon food grade heavy duty plastic barrel
- ❖ Rinse barrel thoroughly. Avoid using bleach if possible. You can make an environmentally safe soap rinse solution using 2 teaspoon of castile soap and 2 teaspoons of vinegar or lemon juice for every gallon of water used.
- ❖ Obtain two cinder blocks
- ❖ Tool Needed: gloves and safety glasses, drill, 4 ¼ hole saw (can use a saber, keyhole, or drywall saw but hole saw is easiest tool to use), 29/32” drill bit, ¾” pipe tap
- ❖ Materials List: (2) 4” male threaded to female slip Schedule 20 DWV or PVC coupling, ¾” brass faucet, Flex-A-Spout (1 or 2), Teflon tape or thread sealer, and tube of Loctite epoxy putty.

Step 1

- ❖ Use 4 ¼” hole saw to cut a round hole in the top of the barrel as close as possible to the outer edge (this makes it easier to attached the Flex-A-Spout or gutter extension to it)
- ❖ Use 4 ¼” hole saw to cut a round hole in the side of the barrel as close to the top as possible and preferably on the opposite side of the brass faucet (this is for the overflow outlet)
- ❖ Use 29/32” drill bit to cut a hole two inches from the bottom of the barrel on the opposite side of the overflow outlet
- ❖ Use the ¾” NPT pipe tap to make pipe threads in the 29/32” hole

Step 2

- ❖ Apply Teflon tape or thread sealer to ¾” faucet thread
- ❖ Screw ¾” faucet into opening at the bottom, front of the barrel
- ❖ Apply Teflon tape or thread sealer to a 4” male thread coupling and screw it in carefully in top of the barrel (you can apply epoxy putty around the outside lip but it is not necessary)
- ❖ Apply Teflon tape or thread sealer to 4” male thread coupling and carefully thread it into the opening on the backside of the barrel (this may take some time because it has to cut its own threads into the barrel as it is going in)
- ❖ If the 4” overflow hole is too big, it may require the use of the Loctite epoxy putty around the threads once it is ¾'s of the way in
- ❖ Once you have allowed the thread sealant to set up, you can then attach the Flex-A-Spout to the female end of the 4” overflow coupling

You have now constructed a Rail Barrel and are ready to set it up.