

Rain Barrel

How I got the idea...

I was looking to get water storage and found some 55 gallon Barrels, and I had seen something online about rain harvesting so I researched it to death. My barrels are a combination of many articles I found online, the availability of local parts and practical use. These can be done in so many ways, my example is just one of them...it could provide a base for someone to create their own.

Why I wanted to do it...

I am always concerned about water shortages or contamination and I want to be prepared in case of any type of crisis; plus rain water is good for grass, gardens or watering the foundation if there is a drought.

Costs...

Cost for the barrel alone was \$25. The add-ons range from \$10-\$50 depending on how you make your barrel.



1. Prior to painting my barrels I sanded them lightly to get any residue off and also prep the surface for better paint adhesion.
2. I used approximately 2 cans of paint total to paint each barrel. Even though it's got multi colors, the total paint used between the 3 barrels I painted was about 6 cans. I use this to figure out how much money I have in each barrel.
3. Once all the paint was dry, I used the Black Grate to trace a 6" circle to cut out with jig saw. On one barrel I used the atriium to see how it fit. I cut out one of the bungs and placed the atriium on that side of the barrel. I placed some screen material on the inside of the hole and pushed in the grate/atrium. This will keep the bugs and large debris out of the barrel.
4. I then used the 15/16" spade bit to drill out the spigot and overflow placement. I used 15/16" because it's just big enough that the 3/4" Male ends will thread into the hole.

5. For the overflow I used two ¾” Male and Female adapters. You can also glue a 90 onto the adapter and extend it to the ground, or connect to another barrel. I did not use the silicone here as it’s just an overflow.
6. For the Brass faucet, I used a ¾” Water Tight Conduit Hub that has a nut on the inside. I used the silicone caulk here, but it also has a rubber washer that comes with it. Need to make sure when you drill the hole you will be able to reach the back side of it to put on the nut! The faucet then screws right into the Conduit Hub using plenty of Teflon tape. You can just use a rubber washer and coarse threaded nut on the back side of the faucet if you can find them, I couldn’t.
7. Once everything was dried, I gathered the concrete blocks, set them in place and measured where to cut the downspout. I got a plastic downspout extension, painted it to match my trim and placed it on the newly cut downspout. A little maneuvering to get it just right is needed. I painted the blocks to make them look better.

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