

More Rain Barrel Installation Ideas



- ← Screw-on lid with screen filter, rain water fills barrel through top of lid via downspout
- ← Male fittings to connect overflow hoses (3 around top of barrel); can be capped if not used
- ← Female fitting for connecting brass spigot for attaching hose or filling watering can
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Easiest and Most Inexpensive Way to Connect Your Rain Barrel to Your Downspout



← The easiest and cheapest connection option is a flexible plastic or metal connector, usually available in white and/or brown at any hardware store which costs around \$2 each. This will fit most home downspouts. To install, cut existing downspout to a height just above barrel with tin snips, slip on downspout connector and secure junction with screw. You can remove the bottom piece of downspout if you don't intend to use it. However, you can also cut out a 12" section of the downspout when you connect the

flexible connector and leave the bottom piece attached to house in tact. When barrel becomes full of rain water or during winter months, you can reconnect flexible downspout to bottom piece of downspout to restore original downspout drainage. **If your rain barrels are set up to flow over the top once they are full, be sure that the water flows away from your home's foundation.**

Some Alternative Ways To Connect Your Rain Barrel to Your Downspout

#1



← Larger, flexible plastic connectors are usually available in green, brown, white or black and cost about \$10 each. Fits all home downspouts and larger commercial downspouts as well. These are also excellent to use when outletting a downspout to ground or to a splash block at ground level. Install as per above instructions.

#2



Gardener's Supply Company

#3



Spruce Creek Rainsaver

#4



Gutterworks

#5



The Rain Barrel Man – Watersaver Diverter

↑ You can purchase one of the many downspout diverters on the market that capture partial or full gutter runoff and then allow remainder of flow to continue down the downspout and into yard or storm drain. Some of these require manual switching of a lever when your barrel is full, others are automatic. Some of these devices only capture a portion of the runoff and may not fill your barrel very efficiently during small rain events. Search the manufacturer's websites above for more details and ordering information. These are not available at your local hardware store.

Barrel Connectors – Use Only If You Want to Join Two or More Barrels for Added Storage Capacity



◀ **OPTION #1** - Use standard garden hose and female fittings to create a 6"-12" connector which attaches to existing male threaded nipples at top/side of each barrel. Alert - water transfers slowly from barrel to barrel with this narrow hose connector. In a moderate or heavy rain, much of the rain will run over the top of the first full barrel and not make it into the second barrel! If you have multiple overflow hoses connected to your barrel, this might not be as big of problem.



◀ **OPTION #2** - For a better option, use 1 1/2" sump pump hose and fittings to make a larger diameter transfer tube to join barrels. Because of the larger diameter pipe, very little water is lost

when water transfers from barrel to barrel during heavy rains. The black plastic corrugated hose kit is found in the plumbing/sump pump section of hardware store and costs about \$15. The kit includes hose and 2 fittings. You will also need to purchase 2 large rubber sink washers and 2 radiator clamps. Remove existing threaded nipples from the rain barrel, if in place. Using a 1 1/4" drill bit, enlarge the holes in the barrels to accommodate the larger fittings that came with the sump pump hose. Place washer on unthreaded end of black plastic fitting. Insert this fitting through hole from inside of barrel (barrel lid screws off). Sleeve plastic hose onto protruding end of fitting and secure with radiator clamp. Repeat for other end of connection.

Barrel Stands or Platforms



Stands or platforms can be used to create a stable, non-eroding base for your barrel. These should be placed on a slight grade away from your home's foundation, so that any overflow from the barrel runs away from your home. Elevated stands create more "head pressure," allowing for greater ease when watering your landscape with a hose connected to the barrel's spigot, and provide space to slip a watering can under the spigot.

If your rain barrels are set up to flow over the top once they are full, be sure that the water flows away from your home's foundation. This water can be allowed to sheet flow across a lawn or into a garden, or be redirected via hoses connected to top of barrel. This flow can be used to water other portions of your landscape or can be outletted to an area that provides for good drainage without causing drainage/erosion problems for you or any neighbors. As a general rule, don't outlet a pipe or hose close to your neighbor's property (stay at least 10 ft. away). An excellent place to outlet an overflowing rain barrel is to a rain garden, a perennial garden designed specifically for the purpose of capturing and infiltrating rain water. During heavy rains, overflows from the barrel and additional surface runoff will enter and infiltrate into the rain garden. During dryer months, water from the barrel can be used to water plants in the rain garden. For information on installing a rain garden, contact the Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District.

General Care

You can use plantings around your barrel to make it blend into your landscape. If you don't like the color of your barrel, it can be painted with Krylon Fusion paint, or others made especially for painting plastic with no priming needed. A variety of colors are available. The screen filter located in the screw-off lid will need occasional cleaning, as some leaf and other debris from roof runoff will collect there. At the end of the fall season, empty and rinse out your rain barrel. **These barrels are not freeze proof!** They can be stored outside during winter as long as they don't hold water. You can simply turn the barrel upside down and store it in place or move indoors. If you are concerned about securing your barrel (so it doesn't overturn or possibly get stolen) you can drill through the side of the lid and secure the barrel to building with eyescrew/eyebolt and chain and padlock. If you have an unpainted barrel, you can use Armor-All or another UV Protectant to beautify and extend the life of your barrel. A silicone adhesive and sealer can be used to repair any leaky fittings. Fittings must be dry before repairing.