



# Rain Barrel Installation Instructions

## Tools and Materials

1. Hack Saw
  2. Gutter Elbow (I found that flexible elbows allow for easier installation)
  3. Pencil or marker
- Place barrel at downspout.
  - Stack cinder blocks under the barrel to lift the barrel high enough to make room for a bucket or watering can to fit under the faucet at the bottom of the barrel.
  - Determine the height at which you need to cut the downspout to allow room for the elbow to fit above the barrel. (Between six and eight inches above the barrel height depending on the elbow you use.)
  - Mark with a pencil or marker.
  - Cut down spout.
  - Attach gutter elbow to downspout.
  - Place the barrel under downspout and adjust the flex elbow.
  - Direct overflow hose away from the foundation or into existing underground drains.

Do a rain dance!

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## General Maintenance

### Cleaning

- The barrel will need cleaning of residue buildup 1-2 times per year.
- Algae may build up, especially in the hot weather. Look at your local pet or home improvement store for bio-friendly products to clean out Algae. Alternatively, a cup of bleach will help keep the algae in check and will be deluded enough by the 55 gallons of water so that it will not harm your plants.

### Prevent breeding of mosquitoes

- Keep your barrel covered with the screening. Periodically inspect for holes.
- You can put one tablespoon of olive or vegetable oil to make a slick surface that the mosquitoes will stay away from.
- Use a mosquito dunk (bio friendly) and place in the barrel, replace when dissolved. You can find these at your local home improvement store.