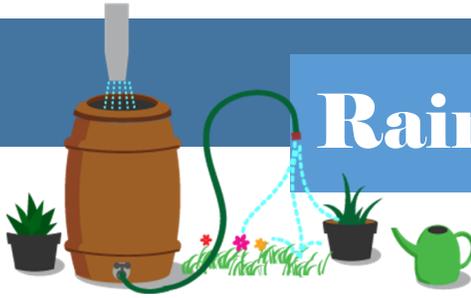


# Rain Barrels: Do-It-Yourself



East Polk SWCD offers a workshop every spring to create your very own Rain Barrel with a cost-share opportunity. \$80 gets you a barrel and kit along with hands on instructions on How to Make A Rain Barrel: plus education on all the benefits of saving rain water. Then 50% can be cost shared back in your pocket once completed and board approved.

Can't make it to a workshop? Then here are instructions to create your own from the comforts of your home.

## Supplies:

- 1 Large Plastic Garbage Can
- \*\*MAKE SURE IT IS CLEAN TO PREVENT CONTAMINATION
- 1 Tube of Watertight Sealant
- Teflon Tape
- 2 Rubber O-rings
- 2 Metal Washers
- 1 Hose Clamp
- 1 Spigot
- Landscaping Fabric
- \*\*LARGE ENOUGH TO COVER TOP OF BARREL
- \*A Drill



## STEP 1– DRILL A HOLE

Use a drill bit to make a hole near the bottom of the barrel for the spigot

Use a bit smaller or the same size of the spigot

## STEP 2– INSERT SPIGOT

Place a metal washer on the threaded end of the spigot. Then put a tight fitting rubber washer over the threads to help hold washer in place and prevent leakage.

## STEP 3– SEAL IT UP

Apply bead of waterproof sealant over rubber washer and insert the spigot into the whole. Wait for sealant to dry, then put a rubber washer on followed by another metal washer onto the threads of the spigot inside the barrel. Secure the spigot in place with the hose clamp.

It is important to keep spigot from coming loose. (You can also use Teflon Tape to seal the hole)

## STEP 4– MAKE ENTRY AND EXIT HOLES

Cut a hole in the lid of the rain barrel.

This hole sits under the downspout of your home so the water runs into it. Cut the whole large enough to accommodate the water flow.

Also drill a hole or two near the top of the rain barrel to prevent overflow, or connect two barrels with PVC for any overflow.

## STEP 5– SEAL THE TOP

Cut a piece of landscaping fabric to sit over the top, then put the lid over the top to secure it.

This creates a barrier that prevents mosquitos and other pests from getting into the barrel.

## STEP 6– PLACE BARREL

Position it directly underneath the downspout in a spot that is most convenient.

Set on platform to give more pressure for a hose, and so it is easier to fill up watering cans.