

# Make Your Own Rain Barrel

## The Benefits of a rain barrel

- Water your garden with free water collected from your roof.
- Rain water is naturally soft and good for watering indoor and outdoor plants.
- Additional source of water between rain events or time of drought.
- Helps keep the Red River clean.

## Tips for making a rain barrel

- Use a 55 gallon food grade quality recycled barrel. Rinse your barrel out thoroughly, as it previously had a food product in it. Avoid using bleach.

## Tips for using a rain barrel

- Do not use collected water for drinking, cooking or bathing.
- Keep lid secure so children or animals cannot fall into the barrel.
- Disconnect the barrel during the winter.
- Elevate your rain barrel slightly to make access to the faucet easier.
- Install the rain barrel so there is NO chance that it can fall over when it is full of water.
- Two or more barrels may be hooked together with a short hose at the overflow outlets for more storage.



## Making a rain barrel

Rain barrels can be built using a variety of different hardware and barrels, talk to your local hardware store for more information. Rain barrel kits are also available.

### **Inlet**

- Use a 6" saw to cut a round hole in the lid of the barrel.
- Cover the 6" hole in the top by placing the 6" atrium grate into the barrel.
- Place the filter sock, screen or nylon on the atrium grate to prevent mosquitoes from getting into the barrel.

### **Outlet & Overflow**

- Drill two holes with a 1" drill bit, one towards the top for an overflow and one towards the bottom of the barrel for the faucet.
- Secure the faucet and the overflow adapter with the rubber washers and galvanized locknuts. You can use Teflon tape and/or silicon caulking to ensure a tight fit.
- Slide the hose onto the hose adapter at the top of the barrel to direct the overflow water away from your home.

### **Site**

- Place two cinder blocks under the selected downspout and place the barrel on the blocks.
- Cut your downspout about 4" above the top of the barrel, add an elbow, and make any final adjustments.



Image credit: Riverkeepers

### **Tool List**

- Jig-saw or Rip Saw
- Drill
- 1" Drill Bit
- Pipe-wrenches

### **Materials List**

- Plastic barrel, food grade
- 6" Atrium Grate
- Filter Sock
- 3/4" Brass Faucet
- 3/4" Rubber Washer (2)
- 3/4" Galvanized Locknut (2)

- 3/4" Threaded Adaptor (for overflow)
- Silicone caulking
- Teflon Tape
- Hose (2)



*River Keepers and Cass Soil Conservation District will be holding two "Make Your Own Rain Barrel" Workshops on 5/5 and 5/19/10. Register through <https://communityed.moorhead.k12.mn.us> or 218-284-3400.*

*Please contact the City or River Keepers for information on where supplies are available.*

**City of Moorhead**

Stormwater Pollution Prevention  
24 Hour Stormwater Hotline 218.299.5386



**River Keepers**

www.riverkeepers.org  
701.235.2895

