

Rain Barrel Assembly/Placement Instructions

Prepare the Barrel

Remove the barrel lid and rinse your barrel out to remove any debris or food product from its previous use. Avoid using bleach as a cleaner. For an environmentally safe solution, use 2 teaspoons of castile soap and 2 teaspoons of vinegar or lemon juice for every gallon of water used to clean your barrel.

Step 1 - Drill and Cut holes

Use a 1½" hole saw to cut the hole for the spigot assembly, bottom drain and the overflow. Make the spigot assembly hole about 12" (all distances to center of holes) up from the bottom of the barrel and the overflow hole about 4" down from the top. Next, use the same hole saw to make the hole for the drain. This hole should be about 4" up from the bottom. If the lid is two pieces, remove the center part of the lid, but keep the lid ring, this will hold the screen in place when reinstalled. If the lid is one piece, use a jigsaw to cut a 2½" by 3½" rectangle in the lid, near the outside edge of the lid.

Step 2 - Install Plumbing Parts

Bottom Drain Installation: Disassemble the bulkhead fitting. Wrap Teflon tape around the long end of the brass hose adapter fitting, screw this into one of the bulkhead fittings. Once this is threaded into the fitting, thread on the zinc shut off coupling until snug. This seals with a rubber gasket. Next, lay the barrel on its side, from the outside, insert the male end of the fitting through the 1½" hole at the bottom of the barrel, reach into the barrel and hold the female end of the bulkhead fitting and have another person thread in the other end of the fitting from the outside of the barrel (the rubber washer should be located on the outside of the barrel). Make sure the drain valve is situated properly when the bulkhead fitting is tightened.

Spigot Installation: Disassemble the bulkhead fitting. Wrap Teflon tape around the threads of the hose bibb and thread it into the bulkhead fitting until tight. Insert the fitting through the 1½" hole 12" up the barrel. Reassemble the bulkhead fitting, making sure the rubber washer is on the outside of the barrel. It is important that this fitting is very tight, use an adjustable wrench and channellocks if you need to. Make sure the spigot is situated properly when the bulkhead fitting is tightened.

Overflow Installation: Thread in the overflow elbow into the 1½" hole near the top of the barrel. This is a tight fit, so it will require some elbow grease to get the threads started. Thread this all the way in, and stop when the barbed side of the elbow is pointing toward the ground, slip a five foot section of the sump drain kit hose onto the elbow.

Step 3 - Install Screen

Use a 2 foot by 2 foot section of fiberglass screen and place it across the top of your barrel. Carefully, reinstall the lid ring making sure the screen stays in place. NOTE: If the lid is one piece with the cutout, make sure you reinstall the lid with the cutout where it needs to be to adapt to your downspout.

Final Step - Place Barrel

Prepare a level area to place the barrel. Cut your existing downspout about 4" to 6" above the top of the barrel, slip the downspout adapter onto your downspout and direct the other end onto the top of the barrel. If using a lid with the cutout, insert the other end into the rectangular cutout in the lid. The downspout adapter may need to be secured to your downspout with some screws.

Enjoy your rainbarrel!