

## Materials List for Basic Rain Barrel

<i>Materials</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Location Details</i>	<i>Comments</i>
(1) 55-gallon plastic barrel (white)	\$12.00	Billy Frogue's	On Hwy 68/80 service road between MM 3 & 4, Todd Co.	Good selection. (270) 265-5007
(1) Small pool skimmer basket	\$9.00	Water Witch	on Pembroke Road between Skyline Drive and Parkway	Easy removal of debris / cleaning of barrel
(1) Poly Full-Flow Shutoff Valve for Garden Hose (Gilmour)	\$5.50	Lowe's	in Garden Hose Section (may be seasonal)	Item #213282
(1) 1" x 3/4" SCH40 Adapter	\$1.10	Lowe's	on PVC fittings aisle	Item #22701
(1) 5' Length 3/4" Black Heater Hose	\$7.30	Lowe's	on PVC fittings aisle	Shorter for connecting in series, or 3/4" PVC
Silicone caulk	\$0.50	Lowe's	in Paint/Caulking Section	One tube can be used on several barrels
Teflon tape	\$0.10	Lowe's	in Plumbing Section	One roll can be used on several barrels
<b>Approximate cost per barrel (w/o tax)</b>	<b>\$35.50</b>			
<i>Tools</i>				
Drill w/7/8" (or 15/16") and 1-1/8" hole saws; smaller bit for starting holes on barrel top				
Reciprocating saw or jigsaw				
Adjustable wrench				
Utility knife or file for adjusting openings				
Hacksaw (optional)				
<i>Other Materials</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Location Details</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Flexispout (optional)	\$8.50	Lowe's	in Gutters/Roofing Section	If downspout needs redirection
Self-drilling sheet metal screws	\$0.40	Lowe's	Nuts/Bolts Aisle	Connects flexispout to shortened downspout
Fiberglass window screen (optional)	varies	Lowe's	in Windows/Doors Hardware Section	One roll can be used on several barrels
Garden hose (2' to 6')	varies	Lowe's	in Garden Hose Section (may be seasonal)	Keep it short for filling watering cans
Soaker hose (optional if barrel is elevated)	varies	Lowe's	in Garden Hose Section (may be seasonal)	If rain barrel is adjacent to plantings
Rain barrel or large heavy-duty plastic garbage can <b>with</b> removable lid	varies	Lowe's	Varies	For series connection & dunking watering cans



- ◆ Cost per barrel goes down when making more than one rain barrel.
- ◆ Locations are only suggestions. Any food-grade drum source, home improvement store, or pool supply store should carry the above supplies.

← Finished rain barrel at Jeffers Bend. Note the elevated platform made with recycled blocks topped with a 24" decorative paver

## Instructions for a Basic Rain Barrel

<i>Top Hole for Water Input from Downspout</i>	
1	Using bottom of pool skimmer basket, trace circle in top center of barrel with pencil.
2	Drill two holes: one to start cutting and the other to hold the cutout from falling in the barrel. Cut out the hole for the skimmer basket using a reciprocating saw (wood blade) or jig saw. Cutout on the small side, using a screwdriver to hold the piece (no fingers!). Trim more as necessary to increase the circle diameter so that the pool skimmer basket flange rests comfortably on top of the barrel without falling in.
3	Smooth/sand edges of circle if necessary.
<i>Lower Hole for Garden Hose Shutoff Valve</i>	
1	Starting about 1" - 1-1/2" up from bottom of barrel, drill a hole using the 7/8" hole saw. Use gentle pressure to reduce kickback. Increase hole diameter with knife or file as needed to fit the shutoff valve.
2	Screw in the shutoff valve, then back it out, apply teflon tape, and a bead of silicone caulk on flange edge to seal. Rescrew back into hole.
<i>Upper Hole for Overflow</i>	
1	Starting about 3" from top of barrel, mark center of overflow hole. Typically this hole is at a 90-degree angle from the lower hole for the garden hose.
2	Drill a hole using the 1-1/8" hole saw. Trim with knife as needed to obtain a tight fit when threaded.
3	Using a wrench, screw in the 1"x3/4" adapter into the hole for the drain hose, then back it out, apply teflon tape, and a bead of silicone caulk to seal. Rescrew back into hole. Seal around opening with a bead of silicone
<i>Connecting the Barrel</i>	
1	Let all glued and siliconed parts cure for 24 hours before connecting hoses.
2	Position barrel on sturdy platform at least 12"-16" above ground near/under downspout. Raising the barrel facilitates the flow of water and ease of access to lower hole for the garden hose. Cinder blocks can be used and topped with a more aesthetic 24" cement paver. Keep in mind the barrel can weigh up to 400lbs when full of water.
3	Insert pool skimmer basket into hole on top of barrel. Line inside with window screen to protect against mosquitoes (optional). Use PVC cement to attach screen to basket, but do NOT glue basket to barrel.
4	Modify downspout and position into the skimmer basket. Most likely, the downspout will need to be shortened using a hacksaw. A plastic Flexispout can be purchased for maximum flexibility and location options. Use Metal Self-Drilling screws to attach the Flexispout to shortened downspout.
5	Connect black heater hose to the overflow adapter making sure hose drains away from house foundation. Or, see Option 4 for connecting another rain barrel in series.
6	Connect garden hose to the lower hole shutoff valve. Apply teflon tape (optional). Turn valve to OFF until ready to use. Ready!
<i>Options</i>	
1	Paint the barrel. Using a spray paint for plastic, paint the barrel to match the house or the surrounding shrubs. Artistic renderings can also be pretty once the barrel is primed. White translucent barrels can promote algae growth, so painting is recommended. Leave a clear vertical strip to view water level.
2	Landscape the barrel on the sides for camouflage. Or, place potted plants conveniently next to their water source to hide the raised base.
3	Connect a soaker hose to the hose adapter. Open the valve when needed to slowly water an adjacent garden.
4	Connect two barrels in series to collect more rainwater. Simply connect the upper overflow to another rain barrel using PVC pipe or shortened heater hose. Second rain barrel must also have an overflow. Better yet, obtain a second rain barrel or heavy-duty large plastic garbage can with a <b>removable</b> top for easy dunking of watering cans!