

How to Install your Rain Barrel



STEP 1

Garden Hose Repair Kit

Find a suitable place for your rain barrel. Ensure the ground is level and firm. You may want to consider elevating the barrel to increase the effect of gravity on water pressure.

STEP 2

Cut the downspout approximately 4-6 inches above the top of the barrel.

STEP 3

Install a flexible pipe or downspout elbow onto the cut downspout to direct water into the barrel. Do not throw out the piece of downspout that was cut off; you will need to reattach it in the winter.

STEP 4

Attach the overflow/diverter to the hole near the top of the rain barrel and direct into the drain or into a nearby garden (do not direct overflow towards your house; this could cause water damage to your home).

This will require certain adapters, which should be included in any diverter kit you buy.



STEP 5

Attach a garden or soaker hose to the hole near the bottom of the barrel using an adapter and spigot. Most rain barrels will come with a spigot and adapter for attaching a hose.

STEP 1

For Closed Barrels

Find a suitable place for your rain barrel. Ensure the ground is level and firm. You may want to consider elevating the barrel to increase the effect of gravity on water pressure.

STEP 2

Drill a hole in the downspout and attach one end of the diverter hose here. Attach the other end of the diverter hose to the hole near the top of your rain barrel. When your rain barrel is full, water will simply continue through the downspout.

STEP 3

Attach the spigot and adapter to the hole at the bottom of the barrel and attach a garden or soaker hose.

Note: Diverter boxes are also available for this kind of rain barrel.

Winterization

STEP 1

Empty the rain barrel and drain all hoses.

STEP 2

Disconnect all hoses and leave the spigot open.

STEP 3

Disconnect the rain barrel from the downspout.

STEP 4

If using a mesh-lidded rain barrel, reattach the cut portion of your downspout or install a flexible gutter downspout. If using a closed barrel, plug the hole in the downspout where the diverter was attached.

STEP 5

Store your rain barrel upside down in the garage or somewhere it will be protected from accumulating water.

