

Rain Barrel Maintenance

Your Rain Barrel will require minimal maintenance to keep it working efficiently:

- Check the connections, fittings and screen to make sure they are working properly, free of debris, and fitting snugly
- Empty your rain barrel frequently
- Clean your gutters, downspout and screen regularly to reduce debris
- If you have a downspout diverter, close it when the barrel is full
- Winter Maintenance: Your Rain Barrel and all connecting hoses must be drained during freezing weather to avoid damage. It is recommended to drain the barrel, turn it over to get rid of any remaining water and store the barrel with hoses in a protected area



City of Cookeville
Stormwater Management

How to Build Your Rain Barrel



How to Make a Rain Barrel

Materials Needed:

55 gallon barrel

1/2" Hose Bib spigot

Silicone Caulk

Hose adapter 3/4" mh x 1/2" mip

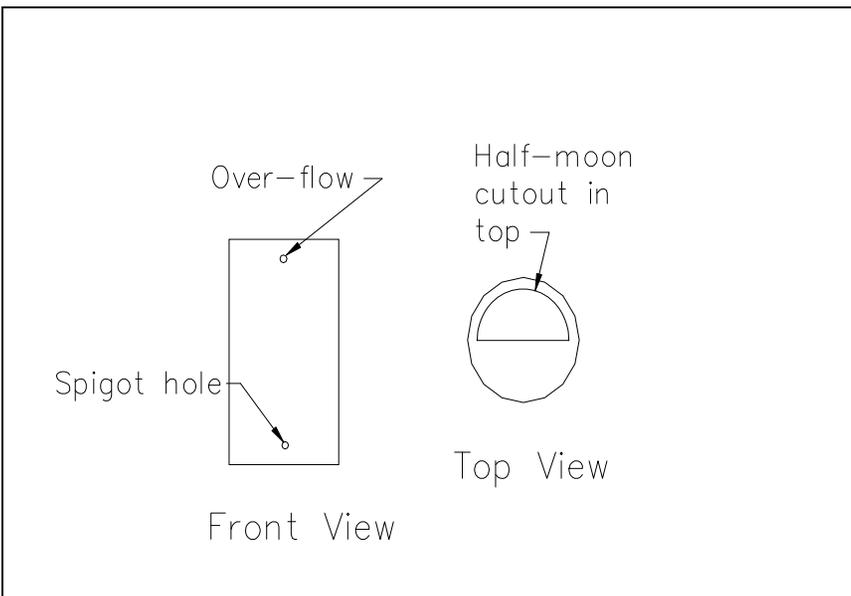
Mesh screen about 3' x 3' square

Tools Needed:

Drill with a 3/4" spade type drill bit

Hack saw with metal cutting blade

Jigsaw w/ blade



Step-by-step Instructions

1. Drill pilot holes in the top of the barrel to give you a starting place for using the jigsaw to cut the barrel top.
2. Cut half moon shaped section from top of the barrel with a jigsaw starting in the pilot hole.
3. Drill a 3/4" hole on side of barrel, about 4" below top for overflow valve (hose adapter).
4. Twist in hose adapter, into the drilled hole, until flush with barrel.
5. Drill a 3/4" hole below the overflow for the spigot about 6" above the bottom of the barrel.
6. Twist in spigot, until flush with barrel.
7. Seal both fittings with silicone caulk.
8. Cut a piece of mesh screen to cover the top of the barrel and overlap down the side of the barrel so that you can wrap a bungee cord around it to secure the screen.
9. Place rain barrel under downspout.
10. Take a hacksaw and cut gutter 12" above the top of the rain barrel.
11. Attach an adapter—either a elbow shaped metal gutter piece or plastic articulated piece to direct water into the barrel.