

Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Instructions to

BUILD YOUR OWN RAIN BARREL

A rain barrel is utilized to catch and store rainwater from your roof until is it needed for landscaping purposes. Water from a rain barrel should NEVER be used for drinking water.

- Plastic 55-gallon drums are recommended for safely collecting water with minimal leaking
- Holes must be cut into the top of the barrel. It is important to cover these hole with fiberglass window screen to prevent mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects from entering the barrel.
- The top drain should remain closed until you decide to add a second rain barrel, creating a series of collection units.
- The bottom faucet should be kept in the closed position until you are ready to use water from your rain barrel.

TOOLS

- Electric drill
- Electric jigsaw
- 1" spade drill bit
- 7/8" spade drill bit
- Utility knife
- Marker
- Rubber mallet

SUPPLIES

- Barrel
- 1 - 3/4" faucet
- 1 - 3/4" "adapter SxFPT
- 1 - 3/4" male hose to FIP adapter
- 1 - 3/4" garden hose cap
- 1 roll of Teflon tape
- 1 all purpose caulk or plumbing sealant
- fiberglass window screen

TOP OF BARREL

- Use template to mark placement of holes on the top of the barrel
- Using a 1" spade bit pre-drill a small hole in each of the marked areas
- Using a jigsaw, cut out the marked areas
- Remove lid from barrel
- When lower drain and upper drain steps have been completed, lay fiberglass window screen over barrel opening, replace lid



LOWER DRAIN

- Mark area at least 2" from bottom of barrel. Area may be higher to allow for placement of bucket or watering can under faucet.
- Using 7/8" spade bit, drill hole
- Screw faucet into hole. Use utility knife to increase hole size as needed.
- Remove faucet, wrap threads with Teflon tape, replace faucet
- From the inside of barrel, screw on the 3/4" adapter SxFPT
- On the outside of the barrel, caulk area where barrel and faucet meet to reduce leakage

