

## Make Your Own Rain Barrel

### **Materials you will need:**

- 1 – Empty 55 gallon plastic barrel (food grade if possible)
- 1 – ½” brass hose bibb for ¾” hose; Male IPS (plumbing department)
- 1 – Hose washer (hardware department)
- 1 – ½” Conduit Locknuts (electrical department)
- 1 – Short length of garden hose
- 1 – Fiberglass or metal screen – cut in circle the size of the barrel top
- 8 x ¾ TPM taper points slotted HWH screws

### **Tools:**

- Saber saw to cut the holes out of the plastic barrel
- Cordless or electric drill
- Wrench to tighten locknuts
- ¾” Drill bit to bore hole in barrel for hose bibb

### **Step-by-step Instructions**

1. Start with your plastic barrel.
2. Carefully cut out two watermelon shapes on each side of the barrel top with your saber saw.
3. Thoroughly wash the interior with warm, soapy water and rinse 3 times with clear water (if this had not been done before obtaining the barrel).
4. Use the drill bit to drill a hole in the side of the barrel approximately 8 or so inches from the bottom. Drill straight in...try not to drill in at an angle.
5. From the outside of the barrel, insert the male part of the hose bibb into the drilled hole.
6. From the inside of the barrel, push the rubber washer onto the male threads of the hose bibb; thread the locknuts onto the male threads of the hose bibb, placing them “back to back” against each other and tighten with a wrench.
7. Cut to size the screen so that it fits evenly inside the top of the barrel and anchor down with sheet metal screws, pulling tightly for a snug fit.
8. Create a raised area off the ground, under your down spout, using concrete blocks, bricks, or any other flat stones, so that gravity will feed the water flow. Make sure the surface is level and flat. Now your barrel is ready for placement on top of your blocks. Make sure it is level and secure. A barrel full of water will weigh about 450-500 pounds. Attach a short hose to make it easier to fill your watering cans.

