

How To Install A Rain Barrel

Timing of project is 1hr. to 1 ½ hrs.

(Please read through the complete instruction manual before you begin your install.)**

Tools You Will Need:



- 3/16" masonry bit
- 1"x2" board to put behind downspout when cutting
- Gutter Seal or Silicone sealant for downspout connections
- Screwdriver / Gloves / Hacksaw / Tape Measure / Tin Snips
- 90 degree front elbow metal or plastic flex tube
- 90 degree side elbow plastic or metal
- 48" super duty bungee cord / Level / Small box of metal screws
- #10 Screw eyes and #4-6 x 7/8" plastic screw anchors
- Battery operated or electric drill with extension cord



The base is a very important part of the installation because the barrel will weigh 450lbs. when full and needs to be very stable. You will need (2) 8 x 8 x 16 cinder blocks and (2) 8 x 2 x 16" cinder block caps or you can use (2) 8 x 4 x 16" cinder block caps for additional height. The higher you set your rain barrel off the ground the greater increase in water flow you will receive.



First, you will need to start with a good 24" x 24" rock base. It will take a quarter to a half bag of small rock (river pebbles) for a good firm base. The last step of this process will be to pack the rock down with the cinder blocks. You can use one of the large cinder blocks and stamp the rock down into the ground for a good firm base.



This shows the downspout that will be removed for the rain barrel. This particular location is between two air conditioning units. In this particular setup the rain barrel will be installed directly under the downspout. The installation time will increase if you need



to offset the downspout as shown in this picture.



This shows the location of the cinder blocks with four inch caps. You can use a two inch or four inch cap to finish off the look of the base. With a cap, you will raise the barrel off the ground and cover the holes in the cinder blocks. You can stack as many cinder blocks on top of each other to get your barrel off the ground, however, you need to make sure it is stable and will not fall over.



The next step is to make sure your base is level from side to side as well as front to back. Adjust the rock under each block until it is level. Then you are ready for the next step.



The next step is to make sure the blocks are 4 ½ inches away from the side of your home. You will also need to make sure your cinder blocks are 21 inches apart from the outside edge of the right block to the outside edge of the left block as pictured to the right.



Once you have your base level and centered on the rock base you have the biggest part of the installation completed. The next step is to remove the screws from the straps that hold the downspout secure.



At this point you will set the rain barrel on the top of your cinder blocks allowing your barrel to rest against the downspout. You will then make the proper measurements for cutting the downspout and attaching the elbow over the top of your rain barrel.



You can use a flex tub or you can use two solid 90 degree elbows like the ones in this picture and make sure you keep a two to three inch space between the bottom of the downspout and the top of your barrel. This will allow you access into your barrel to clean it out at the end of the season or remove it and put it away for the winter. If you live in the southern states you will only need to open the hose bib and drain the water from the barrel to keep it from freezing. If freezing temperatures are expected to last longer than 48 hours make sure your barrel is empty.



Mark the location you need to cut the downspout and make sure you have two to three inches of space above the inlet into the barrel over the screen. With a hacksaw and tin snips carefully cut and remove the downspout. Once you cut through the downspout remove the lower section and store it for future use. You will then push the barrel up against the wall and adjust the downspout over the hole in the barrel.



This installation is the easiest when it is straight down into the top of the rain barrel. If your downspout is on the corner of the house and you would like to offset the barrel away from the corner or around the corner out of sight, please note the pictures and parts you will need below. This type of installation will take a little longer to complete.



This is an offset using 90 degree side and front elbows with a flex tube at the bottom.



When removing the downspout you will need to put a 1" x 2" block of wood behind it to keep the hacksaw from binding up. As you get to the back of the downspout you can apply a small amount of pressure below the block of wood, allowing you to cut through the back half of the downspout.



Make sure you are using your gloves at this stage because the metal will have very rough, sharp edges. You will need to press in on both sides of the downspout and make two small indentions allowing the elbow to slide over the downspout.



Now you can attach the 90 degree elbows or the flex tube to your downspout with metal screws. Always finish off your connections with gutter seal or silicone sealant. After you have applied your seal you can remove the block of wood.

How To Secure The Rain Barrel To The House



You will need: 48" bungee cord and screw anchors



You will drill a small 3/16 hole between the bricks and push a small plastic screw anchor into the hole. Insert your small #10 screw eye into the hole and tighten until it is snug. Attach the other screw eye on the opposite side of the barrel. Once this is complete you can hook the bungee cord into each screw eye securing the barrel to the house. The bungee cord can be removed once the barrel has filled with water.



How To Attach The External Overflow



The following parts are found inside the rain barrel. They have not been glued together and it is recommended that the 90 degree elbow with the threads be removed. It is easier to screw into the outside of the barrel attachment without the extension on at this time. It is important not to over tighten the 90 degree elbow (2 or 3 full turns) because you want it to move freely up and down. This will direct the excess water away from the foundation of your home. Rotate the short elbow towards yourself and insert the long extension into the opening and then move the full

extension back into place.



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