



**NEWPORT NEWS**  
**Waterworks**  
DEPARTMENT  
Newport News Waterworks  
(757)926-1000



Newport News Dept. of  
Public Works Recycling  
Office  
(757)269-2700



(757) 591-4838

**The**  
**Mariners'**  
**Museum**  
**and Park**  
(757) 591-7741



*Save Water, Save Money*

# MAKE A RAIN BARREL!



## Benefits of Rain Barrels:

---

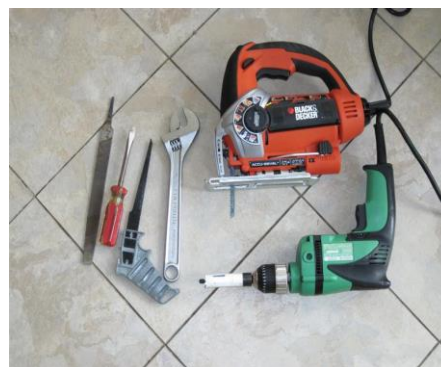
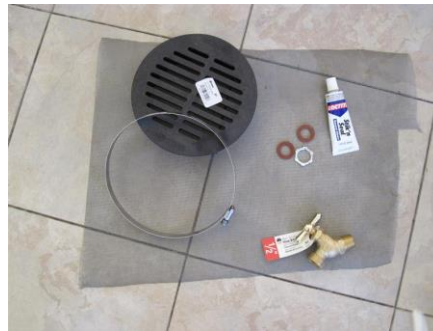
- Rain water is free from added chemicals
  - Water conservation
  - Reduction and control of water run-off
  - Convenience
  - Save money
  - Self-satisfaction
-

## Suggested Parts

- 1—55 gal. barrel, once used to transport food (pickles, olives), preferably with removable lid
- 1— $\frac{1}{2}$ " non-kink male bibb
- 1— $\frac{3}{4}$ " Hose barb adapter
- 1—hose gaskets
- 1— $\frac{1}{2}$ " conduit lock nut (opt.)
- 1—6" round drain grate
- 1—7" round worm gear clamp
- Waterproof or marine glue
- Screening (nylon mesh is best)

## Suggested Assembly

- Cut a 6" hole in lid or top. Rough edges may be smoothed with a file.
- Drill a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or slightly smaller hole near bottom of barrel.
- Cut and wrap screen material around top of grate; hold in place using clamp, and place in hole of lid.
- Work hose gasket around male end of bibb, add glue around end of bibb, and hand screw into hole at bottom until snug.
- As an option, a conduit lock nut and gasket may be screwed on bibb from inside of barrel. Glue may also be added there. Allow 24 hours to cure.



## Further Notes

- **Gutter downspout will likely need to be cut.** Flexible gutter connections can be used to connect downspout to barrel.
- **Barrel should be placed under spout at lowest point of house.**
- **Rinse barrel thoroughly before collecting rain water.** (Some containers had salt-based preservatives in them that could be harmful to plants)
- **A jigsaw, hole saw, Rotozip saw or handsaw may be used to cut large 6" hole in lid.**
- **Hole in lid for drain should be small enough for drain to be snug but easily removed for cleaning.**
- **Small holes may be drilled around inside of lid to prevent water from accumulating.**
- **An overflow hole may be drilled near top side of barrel.** Attach a plastic male hose adapter to allow for overflow or to attach to another rain barrel. (See picture of painted rain barrels.)
- **In extreme freezing conditions, water should be drained from barrels.**
- **Barrel should be placed on a stand or 2 cinder blocks 16-20 inches high.** This helps with the gravity flow of water or for attaching a water hose.