



By Anne Brown, HCMG

## HOW TO BUILD A RAIN BARREL

Do you know that you can collect 62 gallons of water off a 100 square foot roof area with an inch of rain? Well, you can. So build your own rain barrel because it's fun, easy and saves water.

Hill Country Master Gardeners sell them built out for \$50.00. But, if you want to build your own, here's the recipe:

### *Ingredients:*

- 55 gallon food grade poly barrel (not white as it grows algae)
- ½ inch hose bib
- ¾ inch male PVC adapter
- ¾ inch 90 degree PVC elbow
- ¾ inch electrical conduit
- ¾ inch piece of PVC pipe
- Tube of silicone
- One gallon plastic flower pot (like retail plants are in when purchased)

### *Tools:*

- Electric Drill
- ¾ inch drill bit
- 1 inch drill bit
- 6 inch hole saw or rock wall saw

### *Directions:*

Drill the inlet hole in the top of the barrel with the 6 inch hole saw, or cut a 6 inch hole in the top with the rock wall saw.

Place the flower pot in the hole and install a piece of air conditioning filter to keep large items and mosquitoes out of the barrel. Clean the barrel by rinsing with water.

Drill a ¾ inch hole about 4 inches from the bottom of the barrel. Install the hose bib by coating it with silicone and screwing into the hole. Screw the hose bib all the way in and rotate so that it is at right angle to the ground.

Drill a 1 inch hole for the overflow underneath the flower pot (about 6 inches) and on the side opposite the inlet hole. Install the ¾ inch male adapter into the hole, coating with silicone, and secure by installing the electrical conduit on the adapter from inside the barrel. Place a small length of ¾ inch PVC pipe in the end of the adapter and place the elbow on it, thus creating an overflow.

Install the completed barrel by the downspout or rain chain and wait for the rain. You may want to place the empty barrel on cinder blocks for ease of gaining access to the hose bib and to insure gravity flow should you want to connect it to a drip system.

If you would like to add additional barrels, you may do so by drilling a 2 inch hole in the side of each barrel across from each other, placing a 2 inch male adapter, secured by a 2 inch electrical conduit, in each hole, and connecting a length of 2 inch PVC pipe between the two adapters. You must place the male adapters at the same place on the barrels, so measuring is a must.

