

There are many variations when it comes to **Rain Barrels**, but there are several basic steps.

Connecting the Downspout to the Barrel:

You need to be able to either clean out the bottom of the barrel or filter out the leaves and dirt from the roof before they get in the barrel:

This can be done by cutting off the top of the barrel and covering the opening with window screen that can be tied with rope, taped, or other-wise fastened. A stretch cord will also work. Cut off your existing downspout, take the elbow off of the old piece and put it on the new cut to direct rainwater into the barrel.

Or: Cut off the top of the barrel 1” below the top lip. Cut another 1” off the barrel. The bottom edge of the lid will now fit inside the top of the barrel. Remove one of the caps from the lid and put a flexible downspout extension over the hole (caulk and screw to seal). Attach the other end to your cut off downspout.

Or: Get an atrium grate (basket used in garden ponds and pool skimmers for filtering). Cut a hole in the lid of the barrel for the grate to fit into and direct a flexible downspout extension to it. You can use a piece of screen on the grate to filter debris and keep mosquitoes out.



Bottom Outlet:

You can use a threaded pipe or a hose faucet. If you can reach it, use silicone caulk and a nut to secure the faucet on the inside of the barrel. You can also use a hole-threader and screw the faucet in with caulk or pipe tape to seal it.

Overflow:

Use 1 ¼” – 2” flexible or rigid pipe. Cut a hole 5” from top of barrel. Use a threaded adapter and nut on inside of barrel to secure pipe. Use an elbow to direct pipe down and another elbow to direct pipe out to where you want overflow to go. Use PVC with glue joints but don’t glue them. This will make them adjustable.

Or: Use a 1 ¼” male threaded coupling inside the barrel with the threads through the hole. Use flexible sump pump hose and an adapter to screw it to the threaded coupling.



For pre-cut, fully assembled, or installation of rain barrels, call Little Blue River Watershed Coalition at 816-356-4040 or e-mail info@littleblueriverwc.org