

## BUILD YOUR OWN RAIN BARREL

If the plastic of a rain barrel is too thick that you cannot fit an elbow onto the spigot, here is an alternative:

### Materials needed:

- Barrel ('food-grade')
- 3/4" copper water faucet
- 1" flat galvanized washer
- Marine glue
- 1" overflow valve with a hose thread on one side



### Tools needed:

- Drill
  - 3/4" holesaw
  - 7/8" holesaw
  - 3" holesaw (optional)
- (If you don't have a holesaw, a 7/8" and 1" drill bit/router or auger will work)



## SPECIAL NOTE ON MOSQUITOS

Mosquito control is very important in Whatcom County due to the West Nile Virus. If you choose to build your rain barrel with an opening that would allow access to mosquitos, proper measures should be taken to ensure that mosquitos do not breed. Several forms of mosquito control are available at: <http://pep.wsu.edu/>

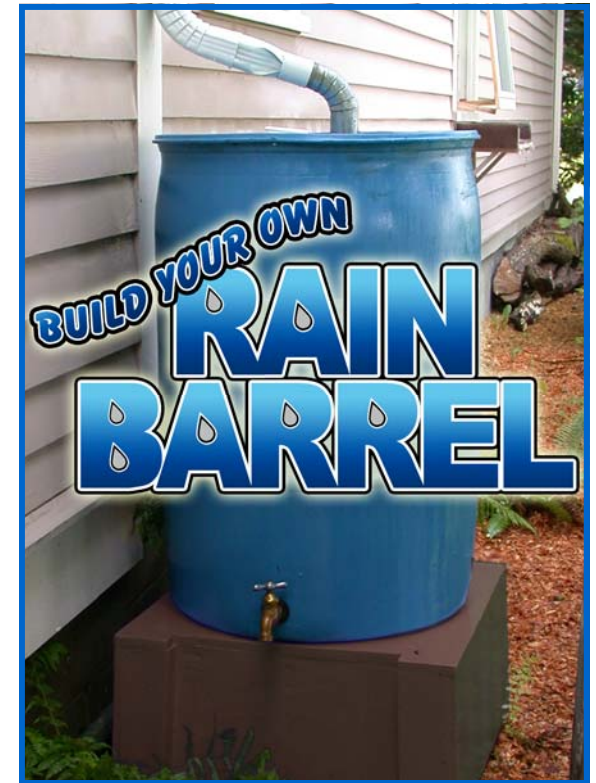


For more information, contact:

**WSU Whatcom County Extension**  
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Bellingham, WA 98225

(360) 676-6736

<http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost>



**Collect rain water  
to water your  
lawn and garden!**





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## INSTRUCTIONS

**Step #1** - Drill a 7/8" hole about 1 ½ to 2 inches from the bottom of the barrel. Leave enough distance between the hole and the barrel's bottom to allow room to attach a hose after completed. The barrel should be able to sit flat on the ground without the faucet interfering.

**Step #2** - Squeeze the marine glue around the hole.

**Step #3** - Place the galvanized washer over the threaded end of the faucet and screw the faucet directly into the hole. (The hole should be VERY snug, you will have to place pressure)

**Step #4** - Choose the side of the barrel that you want to place your overflow valve, and drill a 1" hole.

**Step #5** - Place glue around hole or overflow valve and screw in the side with narrower threading. (The wider threading is for a hose fitting, you want that left on the outside of the barrel for a hose connect.)

**Step #6** - On the top of the barrel, there most likely will be several holes with caps that you can use to direct your downspouts. If you do not have a hole, you can use the 3" holesaw to drill one, and convert your downspouts to fit.

*(NOTE: Be sure to place the barrel on a strong flat surface, as a filled rain barrel can weigh more than 450 pounds.)*