

Rain Barrel using Drums with 2 holes on one end

by John Dorsch (5/2011)

What you need:

55 gal. plastic drum with 2 holes and screw-in caps on one end
The side with the holes/caps will be the bottom of the barrel
The side of the barrel without holes will be the top of the barrel
 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Street Ell (galvanized elbow)
 $\frac{3}{4}$ " nipple (galvanized) 5" long
 $\frac{3}{4}$ " boiler drain with female end (faucet)
Teflon plumber's tape
Plumbers silicone
Sump pump drain kit

Tools:

$\frac{1}{2}$ " hole cutting attachment for drill
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ " hole cutting attachment for drill
Drill
Jigsaw

Optional:

Sandpaper
Paint for plastic
Connecting hose

1. Remove (unscrew) the 2 screw-in caps from the bottom of plastic barrel and rinse it out.
2. Trace a 4" hole on the other end of the barrel on the side opposite of where the faucet attaches.
3. Cut a 4" diameter hole (using a jigsaw) that a flexible downspout will fit in perfectly.
4. On the side of the barrel near the top, drill out a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter hole and screw in the $1\frac{1}{2}$ " fitting from the sump pump drain kit. The fitting will make its own threads into the plastic of the barrel. You can attach the hose of the sump pump drain kit to this fitting using the clamp in the kit.
5. Cut the inside of the hole in one cap out with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " hole cutting drill. You will notice that the hole in the cap has premade $\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe threads.
6. Apply a thin line of plumbers silicone to each cap. Screw the 2 caps back in the end of the barrel. Make sure there is a tight seal.
7. Screw the male threads of the Street Ell into the pipe threads in the cap where you cut out the inside of the hole.
8. Use Teflon tape on the threads of the nipple and screw the nipple into the female threads of the Street Ell.
9. Use Teflon tape on the threads on the other end of the nipple and screw the boiler drain onto the nipple.
10. If you are going to paint the barrel, sand all parts prior to applying special paint

