FAQ's:

Do I have to do it JUST like that?
No. This can be used as a guideline. Things may be put in whichever location works best for your needs. Or other changes can be made to suit your preferences.

Can I paint it?
Yes, barrels can be painted using spray paint designed for adhering to plastic such as Krylon Plastic Fusion or Rust-Oleum Plastic Primer. You can also be creative with your rain barrel by building a structure around it, or perhaps some fencing that ivy or other climbing plants can grow on. This is what makes a rain barrel work wonderfully.

What about mosquitoes?
The netting over the atrium basket should deter most mosquitoes, but eggs may still drop through. There are several additional ways to ensure their absence. One method is adding a tablespoon of mosquito larvicide to the water containing the eggs. This biological pest control product kills mosquito larvae but is completely non-toxic to plants and animals such as fish, birds, wildlife, and pets. Each dunk kills mosquito larvae for 30 days or more.

How can I increase the water pressure?
Rain barrels rely on gravity for pressure so the higher the rain barrel is raised, the more pressure it has. For watering gardens, attaching a soaker hose to the spigot will increase pressure. For watering can be purchased at most home supply stores. If you can also be creative with your rain barrel by building a structure around it, or perhaps some fencing that ivy or other climbing plants can grow on. This is what makes a rain barrel work wonderfully.

Why use a rain barrel?
An average home with a roof size of 1,000 square feet will generate approximately 6,500 gallons of water from a 1-inch rainfall. Collecting and using this water with rain barrels helps reduce the demand on public and private water supplies, and reduces pollution, flooding, and erosion in local waterways by reducing storm water runoff.

How do I use the water?
The water that you collect in your rain barrel can be used to water indoor and outdoor potted plants and landscape areas, clean off sidewalks, garage floors, driveways, and for other non-potable uses.

What do I need to get started?
Yes. This can be used as a guideline. Things may be put in whichever location works best for your needs. Or other changes can be made to suit your preferences.

Tools needed:
- 1/2" hose bib
- 1" flexible hose
- 4" atrium basket
- Teflon tape
- Screw spigot into hose bib

Barrel next to downspout.

Elevate the constructed structure around it, or perhaps some fencing that ivy or other climbing plants can grow on. This is what makes a rain barrel work wonderfully.

How to make a Rain Barrel:

Drill hole using 1" holesaw from bottom of the barrel.

Wrap spigot threads with teflon tape.

Put a bead of silicone around hole.

Screw spigot into hole and let dry.

Do this with both spigots.

Cover bottom of atrium basket with foot of pantyhose and drop in the hole on top of the barrel.

Drill hole using 1" holesaw from bottom of the barrel.

Wrap spigot threads with teflon tape.

Put a bead of silicone around hole.

Screw spigot into hole and let dry.

Do this with both spigots.

Cover bottom of atrium basket with foot of pantyhose and drop in the hole on top of the barrel.

May need to line the edge of the hole with silicon and then let dry before planting basket in hole to ensure a tight fit.

At this point paint barrel if desired (see FAQ on back page).

Elevate the constructed structure around it, or perhaps some fencing that ivy or other climbing plants can grow on. This is what makes a rain barrel work wonderfully.

Using a hacksaw, make a horizontal cut on the the structure's downspout.

Using a hacksaw, make a horizontal cut on the the structure's downspout. Bend flexible downspout into basket, align with structure's downspout, and mark where the flexible downspout will be connected.

Attach flexible downspout to regular downspout.

Attach flexible downspout to regular downspout.

Attach piece of hose to overflow valve and be sure to let all silicone dry thoroughly before filling with rain.

Enjoy your new rain barrel!

Rain Barrel Use and Care:

Place on raised surface to increase water pressure.

Keep screen free of debris.

Clean out gutters on a regular basis or use gutter guards.

Unlock barrel in winter to prevent freezing.

Direct overflow outlet away from foundation. Use water in barrel regularly so it will be empty for next rain.

For more information, contact James River Basin Partnership
(417) 836-6183
Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
(417) 866-1127

Rain barrel on front cover painted by Charli Stout

Rain barrel on back cover painted by Charles Droz

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