

# Constructing An Official H2O Hero Rain Barrel

## Parts List

### Barrel

1 55 or 35 gallon, plastic

### Inflow

1 18" flex downspout  
1 2' x 2' fiberglass window screening  
4 6" cable ties

### Overflow

1 2" PVC trap adapter hub x slip joint  
1 2" PVC pipe 2' length  
2 2" PVC 90 degree elbow hub x hub

### Drain

1 1/2" heavy duty male threaded brass boiler drain valve  
1 1/2" black 90 degree elbow or tee  
1 3/4" washer  
1 6" pipe tape

## Barrel Preparation

Top Opening – A hole cut in the top of the barrel will receive the flow from the downspout. This cut-out should encompass the area between the two bung holes and along the edge of the cover. Leave about one inch along the cover edge, bung holes and thicker mid-section between bung holes (see picyute). These areas are generally thicker and, left intact, will maintain the integrity of the cover. Drill a starter hole for the saw blade and cut out the area as shown in the photo.



*Cut-out area on top of barrel*

Cover Removal – Near the top of the barrel, locate the area where the side of the barrel curves inwards (see picture). Drill a starter hole for the saw blade and cut off the top of the barrel by following this narrower band around the circumference of the barrel. NOTE: Make sure the saw is cutting into the barrel and not the cover itself.



*The cover is cut off along the area near top of barrel where the side slightly curves inward.*

Cover Placement and Finishing– When the top of the barrel has been removed, it is turned upside down and should fit securely over the top edge of the cut barrel. Drill a 7/8" hole in the center of the uncut half of the barrel cover to allow additional drainage into the barrel. Also, drill four 1/4" holes equally spaced around the outside edge of the cover to attach the screening (many barrels already have such holes near each bung, thus only the remaining two may be necessary). Use a file on all cut edges to remove any burrs from the sawing.

Side Holes – Drill a 2.5" diameter hole on the side of the barrel, approximately 3' (on center) from the newly cut top edge, for the overflow pipe. 1/4 to 1/2 way around the barrel from the overflow hole, drill a 7/8" hole on the side of the barrel about 2.5" from the bottom, for the spigot.



*Inverted cover with inflow and drainage hole, and overflow hole on side.*

### **Hardware Installation**

**Cover** – Place the screening loosely over the original topside of the cover and fix in place using tie-wraps through the ¼” holes in the cover’s edge. When turned over and placed on the barrel, the top should fit securely and further hold the screening in place.

**Spigot** – Carefully screw the spigot into the 7/8” hole, trying to keep it straight and just far enough to tap the hole. Remove the spigot, wrap the threads with Teflon tape and re-insert all the way leaving the spigot facing sideways to ease attachment of a hose. Inside the barrel, place the washer over the spigot threads and secure using the ½” tee. Tighten the tee on the spigot using a wrench. **NOTE:** Use a second wrench on the outside of the spigot itself in order to prevent its turning.

**Overflow** – Insert the male end of the pipe adapter into the 2.5” hole and secure with the slip joint fitting. **NOTE:** The nylon gasket found with this adapter should be discarded. Connect an elbow to the outside of the adapter, followed by the 2’ pvc pipe and the other elbow. **NOTE:** The overflow pipe should be directed to the same location as the original downspout discharge.

**Downspout Modification** – The downspout should be cut about 10” above the top of the barrel. The downspout extender is then attached to the downspout and directed to the opening in the barrel cover.