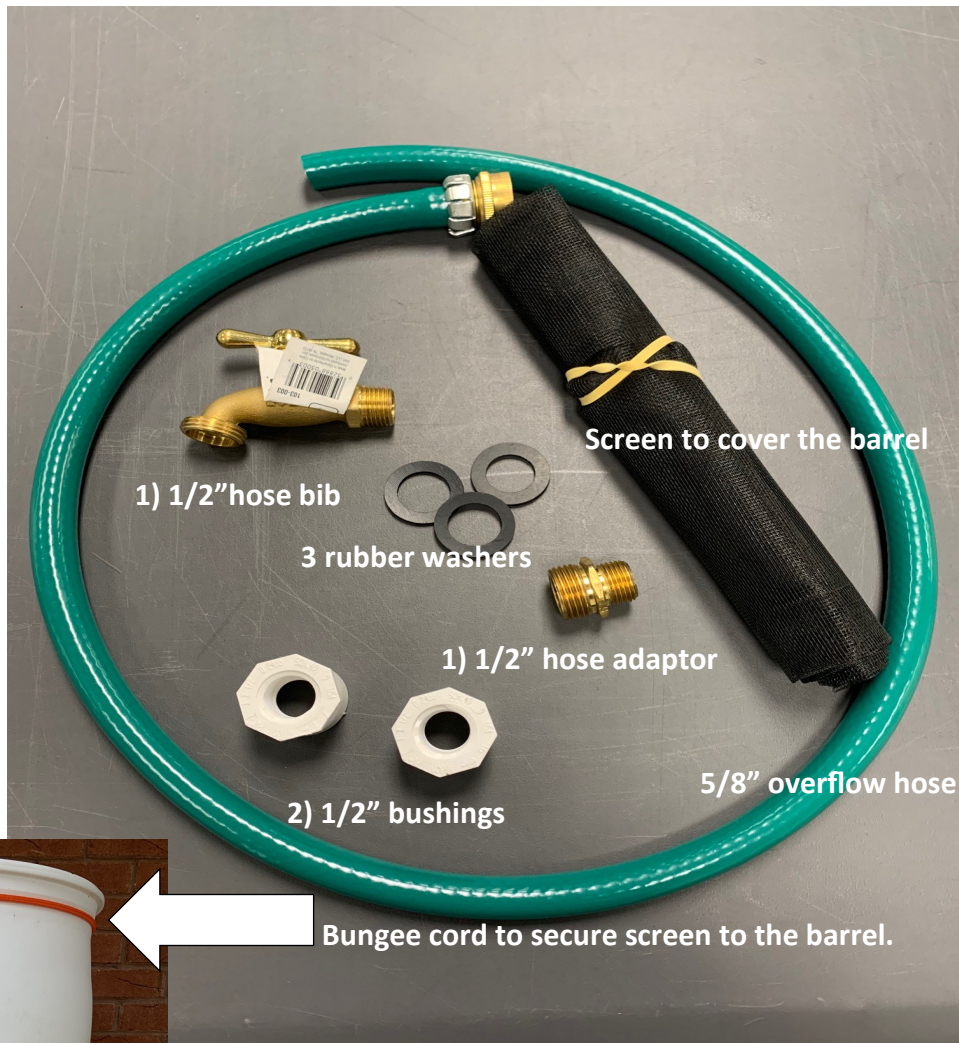




Materials needed to build a rain barrel.





We used a 13/16" drill bit to cut the overflow and spigot holes.



1st, we cut the top out of the barrel using a reciprocating saw.

Then we drilled the spigot and overflow holes on the lower end and the side of the barrel.

Be sure to secure the barrel before drilling. Sitting on the barrel works well.

Drill the overflow valve hole approximately 4" from the top of the barrel.

Turn the barrel approximately 1/4 of a turn, so the spigot hole will be on the side of the barrel .

For the bottom hole, sit towards the bottom of the barrel. Drill the hole approximately 4 inches from the bottom of the barrel.



Step 1

Wrap Teflon tape around the threaded end of the spigot, press into threads.



Step 2

Place a rubber washer on the threaded end of the spigot.



Step 3

Thread the spigot into the bottom hole of the barrel.

Step 4

Hold a rubber washer onto the 1/2" bushing.



Step 5

Reach into the barrel and thread the washer and bushing onto the thread of the spigot. Be careful not to strip the tread of the bushing. Tighten as needed. You may want to have someone hold the outside piece as you tighten the inside bushing.



Step 6

Place washer on the back end of the hose adaptor. Wrap Teflon tape around the threaded end of the 1/2" hose adaptor, press the tape into the threads.



Step 7

Thread the adaptor through the top hole of the Barrel.



Step 8, Thread bushing onto overflow valve.

Tighten as needed.





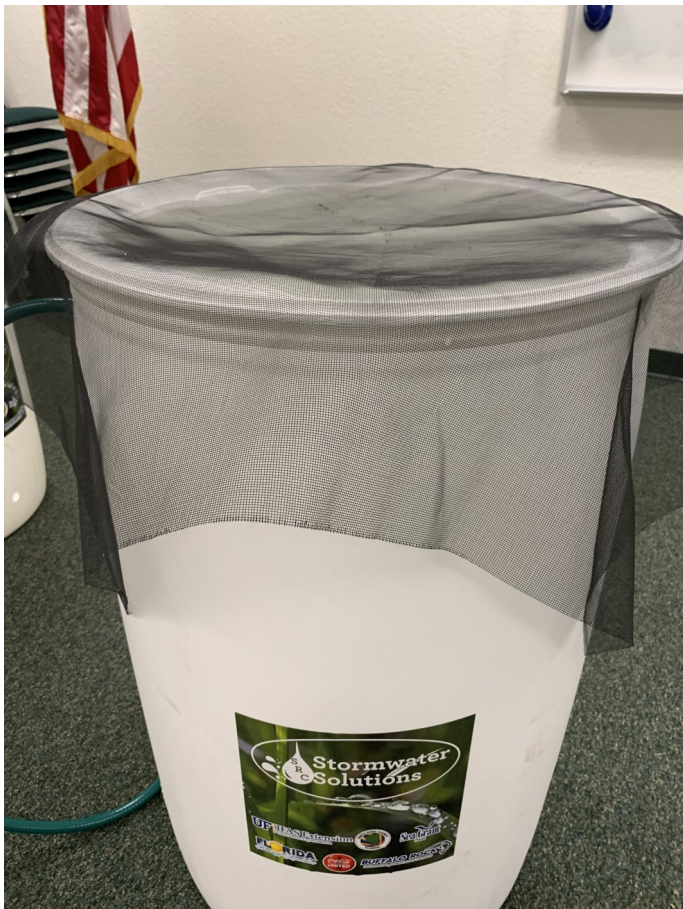
Step 9

Seal with waterproof adhesive sealant as needed.

Step 10

Attach overflow hose to hose adaptor.





Step 11

Place the screen material over the top of the barrel.

Step 12, Tighten the screen with bungee cords around the barrel to secure the screen.



Step 13, set the foundation to increase gravity flow. Be sure the foundation is strong enough to potentially hold 458 pounds of water.



Step 14, Your rain barrel is complete!

Rain Barrel Maintenance

- Periodically check the overflow and hose bib for leaks, seal with silicone as needed.
- Try to drain your rain water barrel on a regular basis to avoid a mosquito breeding ground; ideally every 7-8 days, it takes approximately 10 days for mosquitos to develop in standing water. If you notice mosquito larvae in the collected water, add 1/2-1 tablet of a biological mosquito larvicide (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* aka B.t.i.). These tablets will kill mosquito larvae without harming plants or wildlife. Each pellet will control mosquito larvae for up to 30 days, replace as needed.
- Check the screen for holes. Check the bungee cord to make sure it is still in good shape to hold the screen on the barrel.

Contact information:

Chris Verlinde, 850-623-3868 or chrismv@ufl.edu