

# Rain Barrel Assembly



A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN POTOMAC CONSERVANCY AND THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

# RAINSCAPES

During the past several years, the Rainscapes Program staff have worked with a number of designs to develop a basic, long-lasting, and easy-to-assemble rain barrel, using parts readily found at most home improvement centers. The following instructions reflect the most recent model.

If you have picked up your rain barrel through one of our "Make and Take" workshops, many of the preliminary steps have been completed for you. Skip to the appropriate instructions for guidance in finishing your rain barrel.

The following listing provides the name and model number of the parts used to make our Rain Barrel. The cost for all parts at a standard hardware store is approximately 15 dollars.

## Rain Barrel Hardware

### Overflow:

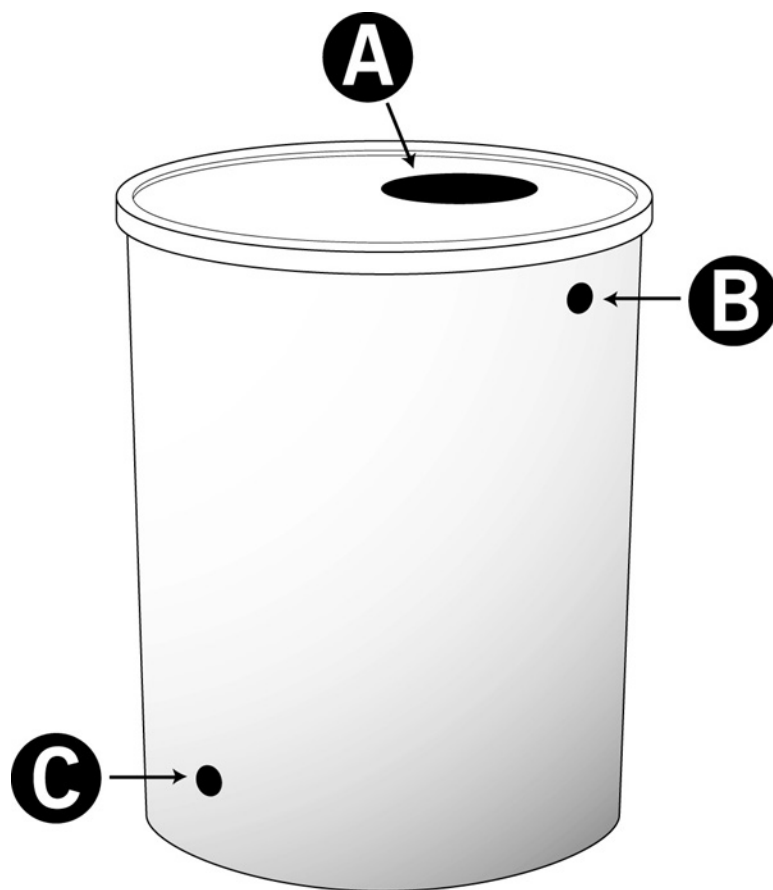
1-1/4" Adapter Insert MPT (SWP151)  
Size 24 25-50mm Metal Hose Clamp  
1-1/4" Sump Pump Hose (Flotec FP0012-6F)  
Silicone sealer or teflon tape (opt.)

### Inlet Grate:

6" NDS Green Grate  
6-7" Metal Clamp #10  
12" square Window Screen

### Hose Bibb/Sillcock:

Brass Sillcock/Hose Bibb 3/4" MPT  
Silicone sealer or teflon tape (opt.)



## Basic Instructions

**Step A:** Cut a hole in the top of your barrel for the inlet drain. The hole should only be large enough to allow the grate to rest on its flange. Cut the hole using either a RotoZip™ drill or carefully measure and mark the area to be cut, start a pilot hole, and cut out the marked area with a jigsaw.

**Step B:** Use a 1-1/2 inch keyhole bit to cut a hole to accommodate the 1-1/4 inch Overflow Adapter. You may need to rasp or sand the hole somewhat larger to screw in the Adapter. Expect a snug fit.

**Step C:** Use a 15/16 inch drill bit to cut a hole for the 3/4-inch Brass Hose Bibb.

# Rainscapes

For more information, visit [www.rainscapes.org](http://www.rainscapes.org) or contact the following organizations:



**Potomac Conservancy**  
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 612  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301.608.1188 fax 301.608.1144  
[www.potomac.org](http://www.potomac.org)



**Montgomery County  
Department of  
Environmental Protection**  
255 Rockville Pike, Suite 120  
Rockville, MD 20850  
240.777.7770 fax 240.777.7765  
email: [help@rainscapes.org](mailto:help@rainscapes.org)  
[montgomerycountymd.gov/dep](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/dep)

**Step D:** Insert the threaded end of the Overflow Adapter Insert into the overflow hole. Keep the adapter straight as you screw it into the barrel.

**Step E:** Insert the threaded Hose Bibb into the already drilled hole. Keep the hose bibb straight as you screw it into the barrel. You may also apply a bead of silicone caulk or wrap teflon tape around the bibb before inserting it to ensure a tight, drip-free connection.

**Step F:** Use the larger #10 Metal Clamp to firmly attach the window screen to the bottom of the Green Grate. Tighten the clamp with a screwdriver or nut-driver. Place the Inlet Assembly into the barrel.

**Step G:** Slide the smaller size 25 Metal Hose Clamp over the barbed section of the Adapter Insert. Slide one end of the Sump Pump Hose over the Adapter and use the Hose Clamp to firmly attach the Hose to the Adapter.

**Step H:** Attach a garden hose or soaker hose to your Hose Bibb.

**Step I:** Use cinderblocks or similar pavers to elevate the completed Rain Barrel off the ground to ensure easier access to the Hose Bibb, and to facilitate gravity-fed drainage.

**Notes:** Be sure to use/drain your rain barrel at regular intervals, and before the winter season. Keep rain gutters clean of debris to prevent mosquito eggs and larvae from entering your barrel. Check connections routinely; clean debris from the Grate Assembly when needed.

