

Useful Websites!

<http://brevard.ifas.ufl.edu/>

This site has information on the Brevard County Extension office. All program areas have information posted along with a program calendar, bulletins and other general information.

<http://search.ufl.edu/web?site=edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>

This site has all of the bulletins written by specialists from the University of Florida. There is a search that your plant or topic can be typed in and then just click on the search button.

<http://hort.ufl.edu/fyn/handbook.pdf>

This site has the Florida Yards and Neighborhood Handbook that is a guide to Florida-Friendly Landscaping.

Painting your rain barrel

- 1) Wash the outside of the barrel.
- 2) Outline or draw your design.
- 3) Use acrylic paint but first spray a primer or use sandpaper on the areas before painting.
- 4) After you have painted your design and let it thoroughly dry then apply a UB clear coat for protection.

Master Gardener Clinics

(held throughout the county throughout most of the year but many close down during the summer months and around Christmas – please call to confirm.)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
Central Brev. Libr (633-1792)	Sunday	1-3 pm
Merritt Isl. Libr. (455-1369)	Tues.	1-3 pm
North Brev. Libr. (264-5026)	Tues.	10 - Noon
Palm Bay Ext. Libr. (779-4004)	Tues. (952-4536)	9 am-Noon 1-3 pm
Pt. St. John Libr. (633-1867)	Sat.	10:30-12:30
Satellite Bch Libr. (779-4004)	Wed.	10 am-Noon
Front. Str. C.C. (674-5722)	Thurs.	10 am-Noon
Patrick AFB BX lobby (799-1300 ext. 124)	Friday	10 am-Noon
Eau Gallie Libr. (255-4304)	Friday	2-4 pm

Other Useful Services!

Unknown Plant! Bring stems with leaves, and flowers and fruit too if possible and we will send it to the Univ. of FL Herbarium.

Unknown Bug! Bring a sample to the Cocoa office and if we don't know what it is we will send it to the Ent. ID Lab.

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.



University of Florida/ Brevard County Extension



How to Construct a Rain Barrel

Two Office Locations:

3695 Lake Drive Cocoa, FL 32926 (321) 633-1702	1455 Treeland Blvd. SE Palm Bay, FL 32909 (321) 952-4536
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Supplies needed!

- * Food grade 55 gallon plastic drum
- * ¾ inch hose spigot
- * 15/16 inch drill bit
- * Drill
- * Jigsaw (for cutting the hole for the downspout or cutting the entire top off if there is no gutter system)
- * PVC Cement
- * Flexible downspout extender (if you have a gutter system)
- * Caulk
- * ½ inch PVC compression coupling for overflow (or larger for overflow connection) * *optional*
- * 1 3/8 inch drill bit (or larger for overflow connection) * *optional*
- * Screen to cover overflow connector, any other holes or for the top of the barrel if you don't have a gutter
- * Scissors to cut the screening
- * Paint (optional – more details at the end of this brochure)

Where can you buy 55 gallon food grade plastic barrels!

- Shonk Drum Service
3168 Skyway Circle, Suite #1
Melbourne, FL 32934
(321) 288-4763
\$25 per barrel (barrels are clean)

How to construct a rain barrel

- 1) Your first decision is, are you going to hook your rain barrel up to a down spout or not? (You may have areas where all of the rain water flows off your roof and you could place a barrel to catch it or you may just place it under the eave or out in the open to collect rainwater.) If you don't have a gutter system then skip to step #6.
- 2) If you have a gutter system then you need to decide where you will put the downspout extender through the top of your barrel.
- 3) Take the downspout extender (make sure it is the right size for your gutters – they vary in size) and trace around it on the top of the barrel.
- 4) Drill a hole in each corner of the rectangle you just drew
- 5) Get a jigsaw and starting in one of the holes, start cutting out the downspout extender hole. After you hook the downspout extender into the lid, caulk around the extender to keep insects out.
- 6) If you aren't going to hook your rain barrel up to a gutter then, drill a hole in the top of the barrel, near the edge, and then using a jigsaw cut around the top to remove it. Cut a piece of screening 3' X3' and using a bungee to secure the screening over the top.
- 7) Decide where you want the spigot to go. Remember to keep it a few

inches up from the bottom to trap any debris that may come down from the roof. Using the 15/16 inch bit, drill the hole.

- 8) This part can be tricky but get the spigot started straight and screw it half way into the barrel. When it is half way in the coat it all the way around with PVC cement and then screw it in the rest of the way. Make sure that the spigot is pointing downwards when you are done!
- 9) Decide where you want the overflow connector to go and drill the hole for that.
- 10) As with the spigot, screw the overflow connector halfway in, brush it with PVC cement all of the way around it and then finish screwing it in. Place a small piece of screening over the opening and screw the top on.
- 11) Now it is time to prepare the site for the rain barrel. Make sure that it is level and that you have the rain barrel placed on a solid base like cinder blocks. The higher you raise the rain barrel off of the ground the better flow of water you will get and the easier it will be to get a watering can underneath the spigot.

Don't forget to register your rain barrel and receive a free Harvesting Water T-shirt. Just call Elizabeth Melvin at 633-2016 for information!