

# Catch the rain....

## that would have washed away!

### A few words about your rain barrel....

You will need to wash your rain barrel. It is recycled and previously contained a food product. Avoid using bleach, as it is environmentally harmful in storm drains. For an environmentally safe soap solution use 2 teaspoons of castile soap and 2 teaspoons of vinegar or lemon juice per gallon of water.

**CAUTION:** A full rain barrel weighs roughly 450 lbs. If you wish to elevate the barrel use only stable materials, such as cement

### Design #1

Used in Spring 2001

Assembly includes gluing the overflow piping. Use PVC cement to connect the 2" coupling to the 3 1/2" long tube, then glue the 90 degree elbow and finally the 3 1/2 ft long piece of 2" PVC. You may wish to add an elbow to the bottom of the pipe or drain pipe to direct excess overflow to a lawn area. The pipe may also be connected directly to an existing infiltration system.

To splash block

To Infiltration pipe

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### Options for Design #1

--If you have an existing infiltration system, simply plumb the piping into the system--OR--attach an elbow at the bottom of the pipe and use a splash block to direct from the overflow pipe to your yard.

### Design #2

Additional assembly includes attaching a 3/4" hose to the overflow spigot to direct excess water away from your foundation. The overflow spigot may not be large enough to handle all of the flow from your downspout so the 2" design was developed in Design #1.

### Options for Design #2

- Connect a hose to the overflow spigot and direct this away from your foundation, a minimum of 2 feet for a crawlspace, and 6 feet for basements is advised.
- Disconnect the rain barrel and return the system to its original configuration.

--Leave the outlet faucet open and set a splash block under it.

**Connecting your rain barrel to the downspout.** Cut off your downspout using a hacksaw just above the top of the rain barrel. Secure the downspout to the house with a downspout strap and sheet metal screws. Reattach the elbow to the bottom of the downspout. Place the rain barrel below the elbow so the water flows into the screened vent.

**Manage heavy rains.** It is essential to consider the impact of heavy winter rains on your drainage system. An overfull rain barrel has the potential to erode your homes foundation. Your rain barrel

has an overflow spigot near the top on the side, direct all overflow away from your foundation.

**Earthquake proof your rain barrel.** Secure the rain barrel to your house

