

Stacking Barrels

Water Storage Options

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Compiled by the Transition Joshua Tree Water Group sub-committee on Water Barrels

\$5 Donation recommended
toward workshops & printing

A How To: Guide to stacking barrels



- how to drill out and install bulkhead or hose bib in a 55 gallon plastic water storage barrel.
- how to connect the two barrels, creating a stacked water storage device which can be filled via the bulkhead and drained via the hose bib.



Bulkhead
3/4 inch



Hose Bib 3/4inch

Pipe Joint Sealant and
1 1/2 inch Hole Saw (check that
hole saw size matches bulkhead
size)



Two 55 Gallon
Barrels (matching)

Two inch Close Nipple
Galvanized shown (PVC
preferable)



Wire (copper)
12 gauge
shown.



Parts Needed:



Channel lock Pliers



Flatbar



Diagonal Cutters
(any wirecutting tool ok)

Drill with hole saw and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch
drill bit



Tools Needed:

installing the Bulkhead:

For use in the lower of the two barrels.

Align your hole a few inches from the bottom of the barrel adjacent to the fill and indicator markings. (for ease of measurement in the future)

Using the drill equipped with the Hole Saw, drill the 1½ inch hole for ¾ inch bulkhead. Remove the plug created by the hole, and clean the edges of plastic shavings.

Separate your bulkhead, (please note the reverse threading and tightening arrow on the pieces.) Take care to not remove the rubber washer from the inside thread.

Drop the inner section of the bulkhead through the top of the barrel. Carefully roll the barrel to get the bulkhead threading through the hole that was drilled. Use your finger to guide the threads through the hole and replace the outer bulkhead piece (Leaving in the rubber seal on the threaded fitting (plastic washers).) Remembering that the bulkhead is reverse threaded to prevent the bulkhead from loosening when installing a fitting on the bulkhead.

Tighten the bulkhead being careful not to overtighten or cross the plastic threads.





Repeat the steps to install a bulkhead on the second barrel. The difference being that the 2nd barrel will be inverted on the 1st barrel, therefore you need to install the Second bulkhead on the bottom of the 2nd Barrel. This bulkhead will serve as the inlet for your water source to fill the barrel.

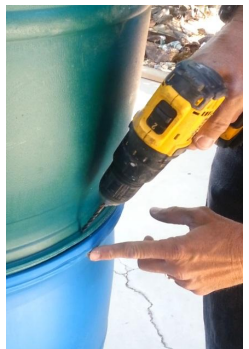
Stacking the Barrels:

(note barrel cap are 2 inch metric coarse on one side and 2 inch SAE pipe thread on the opposite side.

Match the threading on the two barrels with the two inch close nipple. Prepare the the treads with the pipe joint compound. Install the Close Nipple on the bottom barrel.

Invert the 2nd Barrel over the 1st, aligning the top barrel with the Close Nipple, while carefully avoiding cross threading, begin to turn the top barrel, screwing the barrel onto the bottom barrel until flush with the bottom barrel.

Being careful to avoid drilling a hole in your barrels, drill guide holes on the adjacent rims of each barrel. Pass the copper wire through the guide hole, trim, and twist to secure the top barrel to the bottom barrel.



TIPS, TRICKS AND OPTIONS:



Barrels can be laid on their side, and the existing cap can be altered by punching out the “knock out” and installing the hose bib in the threading provided.

Avoid cross threading by turning fitting counterclockwise until they align, and drop into groove. Then turn clockwise to fasten.



You can replace the hose bib with alternate pieces to attach to irrigation or other attachments.

You can use a wide object like a pry bar to open or tighten the caps provided.



\$140 for Totes
275 gallon

Which can be stacked
modularly to configure a wall
or wind barrier.



55 Gallon Plastic Barrel
(Regular blue or green)
\$25/each

55 Gallon Screw
Top Barrel
\$40

