Things you will need ...

Everything you need to complete this project can be purchased at your local hardware store. If you choose to use a 55 gallon “juice” barrel you can find sources for them on the internet.

The Tools

Drill
¾” Spade Bit
1” hole Bit
4” hole Bit
12” Adjustable Wrench
12” Channel Lock Pliers
Jigsaw

The Hardware

1 - ½” Brass Faucet Assembly
1 - ½” Brass Hose Connector
2 - 1” cap, PVC
2 - 1” x ½” bushing, PVC
2 - 1” O ring
1 - 6’ Garden Hose Connector
1 - 4” Round Atrium Grate
1 - 2” x 3” x 4” S&D Downspout Adapter
1 - A-B Elbow Cover
1 - Flex Elbow
4 - Concrete Blocks or equivalent (to raise barrel so water will flow)

The Container

Large Heavy Duty Garbage Can
Large Industrial Juice Barrel
Large Wooden Whiskey Barrel
Any container that can be cleaned and is sturdy with a removable lid can be used.

Getting Started ...

Clean barrel and lid with soap and water.

Step 1 - Faucet Assembly

1 Drill ¾” hole into 1” PVC cap
2 Using 1” hole saw, drill a hole at front center of barrel just above bottom of barrel for faucet assembly.
3 Place 1” x ½” PVC bushing into hole from outside of barrel.
4 Put 1” O ring on bushing on inside of barrel.
5 Screw 1’ PVC cap with hole drilled in it onto bushing inside of barrel.
6 Install ½” brass faucet assembly into PVC bushing on outside of barrel.

Step 2 - Overflow Valve

1 Drill ¾“ hole into 1” PVC cap.
2 Using 1” hole saw, drill a hole half way between center on side of barrel close to top for overflow valve.
3 Place 1” x ½” PVC bushing into hole from outside of barrel.
4 Put 1” O ring on bushing on inside of barrel.
5 Screw 1’ PVC cap with hole drilled in it onto bushing inside of barrel.
6 Install ½” brass hose connector into PVC bushing on out side of barrel.
7 Install 6’ garden hose connector to brass fitting to direct overflow away from house.

Step 3 - Rain Intake

1 Drill 4” hole in center of lid (this can be cut with a jigsaw).
2 Install 4’ round atrium grate (to catch leaves) into hole in lid, this can be secured with waterproof glue or left unglued for ease in cleaning.
3 Slip round end of 2” x 3” x 4” S & D downspout adapter over 4” grate.
4 Slip smaller end of A-B elbow cover into 2” x 3” of adapter.
5 Slip smaller end of flex-elbow into A-B elbow cover.
6 Fit other end of flex-elbow to house gutter downspout.

Place Rain Barrel on concrete blocks. Make sure concrete blocks are level; a full barrel can weigh several 100 pounds.