

BLUE BIN TO WATER BUTT CONVERSION

Instructions to convert your blue bin into a water butt

Before you start:

Check you have enough room at the side or front of a suitable drainpipe for the blue bin (i.e. not a drainpipe that is connected to your bathroom). A small pipe will be connected from the drainpipe to the bin to divert the water and the bin will need to be on a stand with a tap fitted near the bottom of the blue bin so a watering can will fit underneath the tap.

What you need:

- A drill - the size will be determined by the adaptor kit you buy.
- A hacksaw for cutting the drainpipe.
- An adaptor kit (see picture) consisting of a diverter pipe and a tap (Key Homecare in Greenhill may have these in stock or buy online - search for 'rainwater diverter kit')
- A stand - they can be built with a flagstone and two breeze blocks and another flagstone or just bricks. It needs to be high enough for the watering can to fit under the tap and strong enough to support the full water butt.



Instructions

Step 1

Construct a stand next to the drainpipe and position the blue bin on the stand.

Step 2

Make a horizontal cut right through the drainpipe, 10cm down from the top of the blue bin. Use the rain water diverter to decide where to make a second cut parallel to the first cut.



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Step 3

Measure, mark and drill a hole on the side of the blue bin to fit the other end of the rain diverter pipe (but don't fit it yet). The hole needs to be level with the rain diverter outlet you've fitted to the drainpipe. This allows the water to go back down the drainpipe when the water butt is full.

Step 4

Now to fit the tap - mark and drill a hole for the tap 5cm from the bottom of the blue bin in the middle and then fit the tap. Note that you will need to be able to reach inside the bin to fit the tap!

Step 5

Place the bin back on the stand and connect the rain diverter to the drainpipe and the blue bin.

Sit back and wait for the rain to pour down the drainpipe and divert into the water butt! If installed correctly, it will automatically switch to flow down the drainpipe into the drain when the water butt is full. When the level drops in the water butt, it will start filling again.

Fitting a water pump

Fitting a water pump enables a hose pipe to be fitted to the pump for watering instead of using a watering can. An outside electric source is needed but once purchased, the pump sits in the water butt with the pump outlet coming out of the top of the water to connect to a hose.

Maintenance

- Periodically check the rain diverter and the pipe for blockages (i.e. anything that has come down the drainpipe from the roof).
- It's good practice to empty the butt every winter and clean it out.

Contact greenergreenhill@gmail.com if you need any help or advice

