

Rain Gutter Made From Irrigation Pipe

Ordinary 8-in. aluminum furrow irrigation pipe can be used to make low-cost rain gutters, says Leo Bottoms, Gould, Ark., who came up with a gutter system for his 75 by 150-ft. shed.

The home-built gutter empties into a downspout that leads to an underground pipe that runs to a pond about 80 ft. from his shed.

"I had a lot of leftover aluminum pipe after I switched to using flexible poly thin wall pipe," says Bottoms. "The shed has a corrugated metal roof and all the rain water really messed up my yard. Residential gutters would have been too small to handle so much runoff."

He used a jigsaw to cut a 1 1/2-in. wide gap along the entire length of the pipe. Then he slid the pipe up over the edge of the roof so it extends about 2 in. inside the pipe. He cut out pieces of a 1-gal. plastic jug to partially seal both ends of the gutter.

To support the pipe, he bent a length of 1-in. angle iron to match the pitch of the roof and then screwed it onto the underside of the roof and also to the shop wall.

The downspout is made from the same irrigation pipe and is connected by a T-fitting at the middle of the gutter. An elbow connects the bottom of the downspout to a length of irrigation pipe buried in the ground.

"It cost almost nothing to build and has held up over the years with no problems,"



Leo Bottoms used 8-in. aluminum furrow irrigation pipe to make this rain gutter system for his 75 by 150-ft. shed. The gutter downspout empties into an underground pipe that runs to a nearby pond.

says Bottoms. "The roof corrugations are about 1 in. deep, so the 1 1/2-in. gap in the pipe leaves plenty of room for water to enter the gutter. The pipe came with slide gates spaced 30 in. apart, which I turned up so

they're out of the way."

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3-Pt. Yard Rake Makes Lawn Cleanup Easy

David Owings's home-built yard rake gets debris off his lawn quickly, and makes short work of other chores using an array of rubber-mounted rake/baler teeth. The teeth are mounted on an 8-ft. long, 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe that mounts on a Cat. I, 3-pt. hitch frame.

"I use it on my Deere 4010 tractor for lawn raking, dethatching, light landscape work, seedbed preparation, and incorporating lawn seed," says Owings.

He bought the rake teeth at a local farm store. The teeth are 8 in. long and mount on rubber balls that fasten to the pipe where they're spaced about 2 in. apart. Owings drilled a series of holes in the pipe and then fastened the teeth as close to each other as he could. He also welded together some scrap metal to make mounting brackets for the pipe.

"It works great for dragging sticks, and for dethatching as it spreads the material on top of the grass where it's easy to mow up. I can adjust the 3-pt.'s top link so the teeth will grab more aggressively, for example, if I want to drag up dirt. Sometimes I drag the material into windrows by stopping at the end of the yard and raising the 3-pt. to dump



David Owings recently used his home-built rake to collect storm debris into a big pile.

the load."

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