Green wheelie bin to water butt conversion

You will need:
A wheelie bin – we had one with a 240-litre capacity
Water butt tap – available in garden centres and DIY stores
Some method of getting water into water butt
Some kind of overflow arrangement

Tools:
Drill
Drill bits – spade bit 25mm
Jigsaw

Step 1:
Check that there are no cracks in the wheelie bin, because it needs to be able to hold water. If it has a crack, it may be better suited to a different use such as a composter. Otherwise, it may be possible to seal the crack/hole with some clear silicone.

Step 2:

Lie bin down - Mark location of tap – find the centre of the front of the bin. The tap should be fairly low down, probably about 10cm from the bottom, but the precise location will depend on how you plan to use and whether you intend to raise the height by standing the bin on something like concrete blocks.
Drill pilot hole

Use 25mm spade bit to drill the tap hole (depending on your tap, your hole may need to be smaller or larger). Use a rounded file to smooth off any rough edges.

Step 3:
Place tap in hole, ensuring that you put the rubber washers on. Our tap had washers for inside and outside. Tighten the nut by leaning into the bin.

Step 4:
Position wheelie bin near to downpipe, probably on blocks if you would like to get a watering can underneath.
Depending on how your water butt is to be filled will determine what holes that are required. If you are filling directly, then mark the position of the hole. Drill a pilot hole and use a jig saw to make the water inlet.

Step 4a

An alternative is to use a rainwater diverter from the downpipe. This requires the pipe to be cut and the diverter inserted. A hole needs to be cut in the bin for the input and the hose connected. In the picture, the inlet is in the side of the bin.

Step 5

If you want to add an overflow, now is a good time to do it. This needs to be positioned high up and it could feed into another water butt if required or it could discharge into the drain.

Now you are ready for rain!