

Rain barrel Program FAQs

1. **As standing water, will it attract mosquitoes and insects?**

The FreeGarden RAIN® rain barrel is equipped with a stainless steel screen, which filters out most dirt and debris while also guarding against mosquitoes and other small animals.

More information on how to control mosquitoes in a rain barrel can be found here: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/pests/insects/mosquito-control-in-rain-barrels.htm>.

2. **Why not free?**

At this time, the City is only providing rain barrels at a subsidized cost to be consistent with what other local municipalities offering the same program are doing.

3. **How does installation work?**

FreeGarden RAIN® rain barrel is very easy to install and it does not require specialized labor. The installation guide, as well as rain barrel specs, will be available at the [City's water conservation page](#). The FreeGarden RAIN® manufacturer (Enviro World Corporation) also has a video on YouTube explaining the installation process. The video can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTzfeh2Sna0>

4. **Are there any options for condo owners?**

At this time, the City is only offering one size option:

Capacity	55 gallons / 208 liters
Height	34 in / 86 cm
Width	24 in / 61 cm

The City encourages condo owners to seek permission from strata managers to assess the feasibility of the rain barrel installation. Condo owners are more than welcome to buy the rain barrels if it fits their needs.

5. **Will they be made of sustainable wood and not plastic?**

At this time, we are unable to offer the wood option. However the rain barrels we are proposing to sell is made of 50% recycled materials.

6. **Why is the City offering subsidized rain barrels?**

The new water lawn restrictions reduces lawn watering to one day per week during Stage 1 (May 1 to October 15), with a complete ban on lawn watering in Stage 2.

With the new water lawn restrictions coming into force this summer 2022, the City wanted to offer residents an alternative option to water their lawn without the need of using potable water during restriction periods.

Lawn and garden watering accounts for the largest portion of residential water use in the summer – water demand can be up to 60% higher in the summer than in the winter. Reducing water use for lawn sprinkling purposes during peak periods helps to ensure a sufficient water supply in the summer and can defer the need for system upgrades to the water supply infrastructure.

7. **Where else can I get information on the Rain barrel Program?**

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