

**Rain barrels capture and store the rainwater running off your rooftop. The harvested rainwater can be used immediately or stored for later use to water your lawn or garden, fill ponds or fountains, or wash your car and yard supplies.**

### WHY DOES THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT PROVIDE REBATES ON RAIN BARRELS?

The District Department of Energy & Environment offers rebates on rain barrels because rainwater that flows off impervious surfaces, such as rooftops, driveways, and roads, carries pollutants into our rivers and streams. Rain barrels can capture rainwater and make it a usable resource, allowing it to seep back into the ground slowly and filter out pollutants, recharge the water table, and prevent stream erosion during heavy storms.

### HOW MUCH IS THE REBATE?

Rebates are issued as a direct reimbursement to applicants at a rate of \$2 per gallon captured. A 50-gallon rain barrel, for example, would yield a \$100 rebate after installation. Rain barrels must hold a minimum of 50 gallons. The rebate maximum per property is \$1,000 and reimbursements cannot exceed the cost of the rain barrel (tax and shipping not included).

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?

Property owners of residential buildings, commercial buildings, and community spaces in the District are eligible, including those who have already received RiverSmart Homes or RiverSmart Communities funding. Rebates existing on first come first serve basis, while funds last.



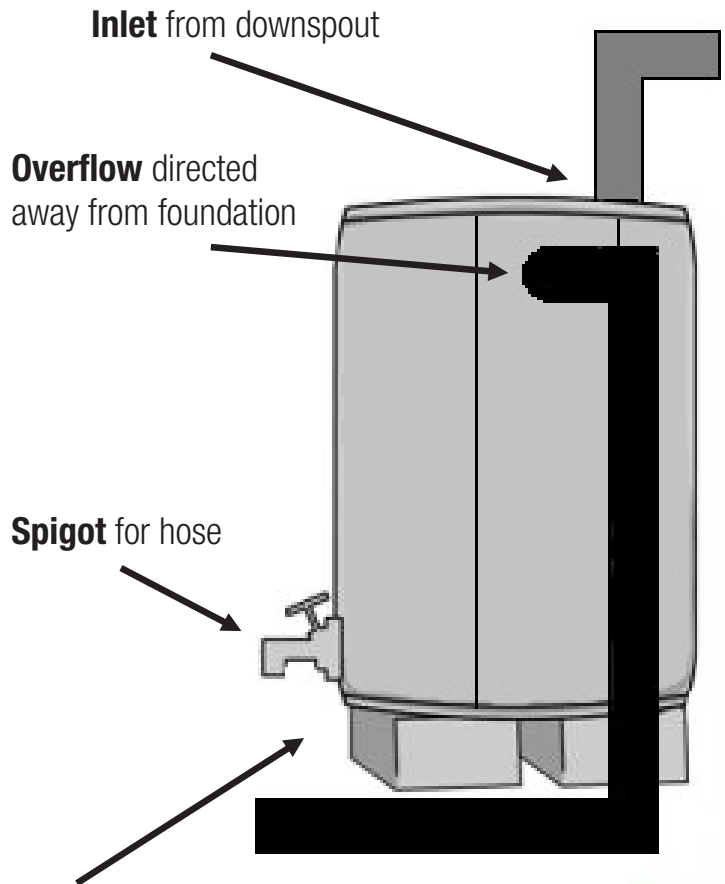
## 5 STEPS TO GETTING A RAIN BARREL REBATE

- **REVIEW** rebate materials on the web ([doee.dc.gov/rainbarrelrebates](https://doee.dc.gov/rainbarrelrebates)) or request by email ([eogrady@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:eogrady@allianceforthebay.org)).
- 1. **ASSESS** your site to determine the best location, volume, and type of barrel. Take before photo(s) of the location without the barrel.
- 2. **PURCHASE** a barrel that meets all rain barrel criteria described on page 2. Rebate funding can only be applied to qualifying barrels.
- 3. **INSTALL** the barrel (yourself or hire recommended installer) and take after photos that show all required features.
- 4. **SUBMIT** your rebate application and documents to the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. You will receive a rebate check at your given address within 2-6 weeks once the application is reviewed and approved.

## RAIN BARREL CRITERIA

Your rain barrel must meet all of the following criteria in order to be eligible for a rebate. Please make sure that these features are visible in your after photos to avoid a longer review process.

- **VOLUME:** The barrel must hold a minimum of 50 gallons. If the roof area draining to the barrel is more than 200 square feet (sf), we suggest adding 25 gallons of capacity for each additional 200 sf.
- **INLET SCREEN:** The barrel's inlet must be screened to prevent leaf debris and mosquito larvae from entering.
- **OVERFLOW:** The overflow is the pipe near the top of the barrel that directs excess water away from the house once the barrel is full. The overflow should be around the same diameter as the inflow. For smaller barrels, we suggest using a diverter kit to work as the inflow and overflow.
- **SPIGOT:** The spigot must be within 3 inches of the bottom of the barrel.
- **HEIGHT:** Your barrel should be elevated to increase water pressure. We recommend placing it on cinder blocks or about 8" high. If you put a barrel on your wood deck or porch, it must be structurally sound (as determined by an engineer) to support a full barrel.
- **MATERIAL:** The barrel must be made of an opaque material that will not allow any sunlight through.
- **DOWNSPOUT FILTER:** This is not required, but highly recommended. Some barrels come with filters that prevent leaf litter and other debris from clogging the barrel and overflow. If yours does not, we recommend that you purchase a filter to add, such as the Leaf Eater ([www.aquabarrel.com](http://www.aquabarrel.com)).



## BUILDING YOUR OWN BARREL?

Submit a design sketch and receipt for all parts purchased to Erin O'Grady at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay ([eogrady@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:eogrady@allianceforthebay.org)). Reimbursement cannot exceed the cost of parts. To ensure your barrel meets the above criteria, please consider submitting the design before you begin building.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT RAIN BARREL AND INSTALLATION SITE

There are many options for size, shape, volume and placement of a rain barrel. Here are six factors to keep in mind when choosing a rain barrel and selecting the right location for installation.

- **NEED FOR WATER**

Where do you plan to water your lawn, wash your car, or maintain your vegetable garden? Attach the rain barrel to a downspout close to areas where water is frequently needed.

- **EASE OF USE**

The barrel should be at a higher elevation than the areas where the water will be used so that a garden hose (or soaker hose) can be used to empty it. If the barrel is below where the water is needed, then the water will have to be carried or pumped. The barrel can be propped up on bricks or cinder blocks to slightly increase water pressure.

- **AVAILABLE SPACE**

Rain barrels come in many different shapes and sizes. Do not place the barrel where it will be obstructing a walkway, basement entrance, or electric and gas meters. Be sure the surface is level so the barrel will be stable when full.

- **RUNOFF VOLUME**

If possible, try to maximize the amount captured by the rain barrel by placing it under the downspout that receives the most water on your property.

- **OVERFLOW**

In most cases, the rain barrel will not be large enough to capture all of the water from a downspout, and it will fill up quickly during a heavy rainstorm. Your rain barrel should have an automatic overflow mechanism that diverts water back into the downspout when the barrel is full, or to an overflow pipe that drains away from your home. It's important that the diameter of the overflow pipe be at least as wide as the inlet pipe so that once the barrel is full, excess water can exit the barrel at the same rate it enters the barrel. If this is not the case, it may back up and leak out near your foundation.

- **ACCESSIBILITY & MAINTENANCE**

Many rain barrels have filters that capture leaves and debris from the roof. If yours does not, it is a good idea to add one. The filter will need to be regularly emptied when it is full, to prevent clogging. Be sure to place the barrel in such a way that there is easy access to the filter to maintain its functionality.

## SEARCHING FOR A BARREL?

Check out our list of local and popular barrels on the next page. If you are unable to find the barrel you want at a local store, check the internet. Most rain barrels are available to order online.

## PRE-APPROVED RAIN BARRELS

The following barrels are eligible for the rain barrel rebate. We are not endorsing these barrels and your options are not limited to these examples, but the barrel you select does need to meet all required criteria outlined on page 2.



**Manufacturer:** RainGrid  
**Model:** RiverSides  
**Volume:** 132 gallons  
**Dimensions:** 51" x 27"  
**Web:** [www.raingrid.com](http://www.raingrid.com)



**Manufacturer:** StormWorks  
**Model:** Hydra  
**Volume:** 116 gallons  
**Dimensions:** 54" x 47.81" x 18.3"  
**Web:** [www.stormworkspgh.com](http://www.stormworkspgh.com)  
 \*Y-Diverter required



**Manufacturer:** Aquabarrel  
**Model:** Aquabarrel Cylinder  
**Volume:** 100 gallons (more sizes avail.)  
**Dimensions:** 30" x 42"  
**Web:** [www.aquabarrel.com](http://www.aquabarrel.com)



**Manufacturer:** EarthMinded  
**Model:** RainStation 50  
**Volume:** 50 gallons  
**Dimensions:** 23.5" x 39"  
**Web:** [www.annieshardware.com](http://www.annieshardware.com)  
 \*Diverter kit required

## INTERESTED IN A LOCAL BARREL?

Many local hardware stores carry rain barrels or can have them special ordered and delivered within a few days. Annie's Ace Hardware in Petworth (202-726-2658) and Brookland (202-529-2658) offer a rebate-approved barrel, diverter kits, and more.



## PRE-APPROVED RAIN BARRELS



**Manufacturer:** Algreen  
**Model:** Castilla  
**Volume:** 50 gallons  
**Dimensions:** 33" x 23.5" x 23.5"  
**Web:** [www.algreenproducts.com](http://www.algreenproducts.com)  
\*Diverter kit required



**Manufacturer:** Rainwater HOG  
**Model:** Rainwater HOG  
**Volume:** 51 gallons  
**Dimensions:** 71" x 20" x 9.5"  
**Web:** [www.rainwaterhog.com](http://www.rainwaterhog.com)



**Manufacturer:** RainReserve  
**Model:** Build-A-Barrel Tank  
**Volume:** 50 gallons  
**Dimensions:** 19" x 19" x 38"  
**Web:** [www.rainreserve.com](http://www.rainreserve.com)  
\*rain reserve diverter required



**Manufacturer:** Bushman  
**Model:** Slimline Rain Tank  
**Volume:** 265 gallons  
**Dimensions:** 64" x 59" x 25"  
**Web:** [www.bushmanusa.com](http://www.bushmanusa.com)

## HAVE A LARGER RAINWATER HARVESTER IN MIND?

If the barrel criteria outlined on page 2 are met, larger cisterns are eligible for coverage. Please email Erin O'Grady at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay ([eogrady@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:eogrady@allianceforthebay.org)) with details before purchasing to determine if the rebate can be applied to your specific cistern.

## APPLICANT RESOURCES

Helpful recommendations, related to the most commonly requested information, are listed below. For additional assistance on your rebate project, please contact the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

- **FEE-FOR-HIRE INSTALLATION:** We have assembled a list of local contractors with rain barrel installation experience, available by request. Please note that you will be expected to pay for this service out-of-pocket and may be required to have all necessary rain barrel parts purchased and present on your property prior to the installation.
- **CARE GUIDE:** We have created a homeowner maintenance and care guide for rain barrels, available by request. Please note that our care guide is tailored to the RiverSides and Hydra barrels, installed in our grant installation program and listed above, however the information is still applicable and helpful.
- **PUMPS:** You may find the need for additional pressure for moving water to a desired location. Several small pumps are available including solar-powered pumps ([www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)). Examples can be found at Aquabarrel ([www.aquabarrel.com](http://www.aquabarrel.com)), Algreen ([www.algreenproducts.com](http://www.algreenproducts.com)), or Home Depot ([www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com)).

## GET IN TOUCH!

THE RIVERSMART HOMES LANDSCAPING PROGRAM IS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY DOEE GRANTEE, ALLIANCE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY. PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR CONTACT INFORMATION.

## PROGRAM CONTACT

**ERIN O'GRADY**  
ALLIANCE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY  
202-905-4945  
[EOGRADY@ALLIANCEFORTHEBAY.ORG](mailto:EOGRADY@ALLIANCEFORTHEBAY.ORG)  
[WWW.ALLIANCEFORTHEBAY.ORG](http://WWW.ALLIANCEFORTHEBAY.ORG)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q: WHY GET A RAIN BARREL THROUGH THE REBATE PROGRAM INSTEAD OF THE RIVERSMART HOMES (RSH) GRANT PROGRAM?

**A:** Although the RSH rain barrel grant program provides a barrel and an assigned contractor to install it for you, the rebate program provides homeowners with more flexibility in terms of timeline and barrel type. Specifically, it offers an opportunity to:

1. Select a barrel other than those provided by RSH or build your own;
2. Avoid long wait times associated with the RSH grant rain barrel program;
3. Choose your own installer from the list of recommended installers; and
4. Install a rain barrel yourself.

### Q: I ALREADY BOUGHT AND INSTALLED MY OWN RAIN BARREL. CAN I GET REBATE FUNDING RETROACTIVELY?

**A:** Yes, provided that your barrel meets all program requirements and your receipt is no more than one year old.