



RAINWATER REBATE PROGRAM



St. Petersburg utility customers can earn rebates by using rainwater catchment devices that conserve potable (drinking) water and reduce the amount of stormwater runoff.

Device Type	Rain Barrel	Rain Tote	Rain Garden
Rebate Amount	\$50	\$100	\$100

NOTE: Collected rainwater should not be used as a drinking water source.

WHY COLLECT RAINWATER?

- Conserve potable (drinking) water used to:
 - Water potted and landscape plants
 - Refill ponds
 - Rinse off outdoor tools
 - Keep compost damp
 - Water to establish new plants
 - Provide water for wildlife, including during dry periods
- Increase the amount of water that filters into the ground to recharge the aquifer
- Enhance the beauty of your yard and our community
- Slow flow and reduce runoff volume into the community's stormwater system
- Provide habitat for wildlife, especially plant pollinators
- Help protect local ponds, lakes and bays from pollutants like fertilizer and pesticide residue carried by stormwater



THE REBATE PROCESS

1. Ensure that you completely read and understand the program specifics and requirements for the specific rainwater collection device you wish to install. If your device is already set up, you may still be eligible for a rebate. Contact us!
2. Contact RainwaterRebates@stpete.org or 727-892-5611 to request the rebate application and verify eligibility.
3. Complete and submit the rebate application, which must be signed by the property owner. If incomplete, the application will be returned.
4. The City will verify your application upon receipt.
5. After device installation, email, photos and other required documents.
6. Upon receipt of your documents, the City will contact you to verify that all requirements were achieved.
7. You should receive your rebate check within four to six weeks.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ Be a St. Petersburg stormwater utility customer in good standing (no pending payments over 30 days late). Look for ST on your utility bill to ensure you are a City stormwater customer.
- ☐ Attend a Rainwater Guardian Workshop. Find the schedule of workshops at stpete.org/WaterWorkshops.
- ☐ Obtain and submit application signed by the property owner or representative designated by property owner.
- ☐ Provide required documents for verification.
- ☐ Meet additional requirements of the specific rebate device as defined by the program.

Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted. Limitations apply. With proper installation, maintenance and use, rainwater collection devices should function properly. The City of St. Petersburg assumes no liability for the installation, maintenance, property damage or injury that may be associated with the use of rainwater catchment devices.

VIRTUAL SITE VISITS

Do you need help or guidance for selecting a good location for your rainwater collector? The City offers virtual site visits that usually take no more than 20 minutes and are easy to do with a smartphone or tablet. Attendance at a Rainwater Guardian Workshop is required before a virtual site visit is scheduled. To schedule, email RainwaterRebates@stpete.org or call 727-892-5611.



Water Conservation Office
stpete.org/WaterConservation
RainwaterRebates@stpete.org
727-892-5611



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: RAINWATER REBATE PROGRAM

WHY DO I HAVE TO TAKE A CLASS?

The City wants you to succeed with creating, installing and maintaining your rainwater collection device. The educational component is designed to provide information necessary to install and maintain each device in a safe and efficient manner. Classes cover a range of topics, including mosquito control/prevention, safety concerns due to the volume and weight of the captured rainwater, and animal and public safety issues.

HOW DO I PROVE THAT I HAVE ATTENDED A CLASS?

If you registered for and attended a virtual class, the Rainwater Rebate Office will have your name on the check-in list.

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE A RAIN BARREL, RAIN TOTE OR RAIN GARDEN?

If you can prove that you have a rainwater collection device that is in good working order (and collecting rainwater), and if the rain garden has healthy plant material and is not overgrown or weedy, you may be eligible for a rebate. An existing rain barrel must have a capacity of 40-80 gallons and an existing rain tote must have a capacity of 275 or 330 gallons to be eligible for a rebate. All other eligibility requirements must be met, including class attendance.

WHERE CAN I FIND THESE RAINWATER COLLECTION DEVICES?

Rain barrels of various sizes and shapes can be found in many local retail stores and online. Local businesses also sell rain totes. An online search using the words “water tote” or “water container” along with the words “and Florida” will produce many results, including businesses that provide recycled or reconditioned products. Rain garden materials, including native and Florida-friendly plants, can be found in local plant nurseries and retail stores. When purchasing supplies, ensure that the specific device requirements of the Rainwater Rebate Program are met, such as barrels and totes that did not have oil or chemicals in them.

I RENT THE PROPERTY WHERE I WISH TO INSTALL A RAINWATER CATCHMENT DEVICE. CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Since these devices will alter the property, owner approval is required. The owner will need to read, approve and sign the application. Alternatively, the property owner can complete and sign a Property Owner Consent Form. If you are applying as a renter, call this out when you contact the City.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: RAINWATER REBATE PROGRAM

DON'T RAINWATER COLLECTORS ATTRACT MOSQUITOES?

Any standing water, mud puddle and other water-holding yard component could allow mosquito adults to lay eggs, and for larvae to grow. Research shows that mosquitoes require 7 to 12 days of standing water or mud to lay and hatch eggs. There are several methods and products that will help prevent egg laying and larvae growth in rainwater collection devices. This is one of the important topics we cover in our classes.

IS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE GUTTERING IN ORDER TO HAVE A CATCHMENT DEVICE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE REBATE PROGRAM?

While having a guttering system is optimal to catch as much rainwater as possible, it is not required. You can position the catchment device under areas where flow is concentrated, such as a roof valley. Another alternative is installing a small gutter section no less than three feet long onto the building's eave to direct flow into the device.

NOTE: Rainwater collected in catchment devices should not be used as a drinking water source.

Question or comment? Contact the Water Resources Department Water Conservation Office at RainwaterRebates@stpete.org or 727-892-5611.



RAINWATER REBATE PROGRAM: RAIN BARRELS



Device Type	Rain Barrel (40-80 gallons)
Rebate Amount	\$50

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Rainwater Guardian Workshop attendance
- Completed and signed rebate application
- At least three photos of installed and connected device illustrating entire conveyance system from roof to container including the overflow from the device away from the platform and foundation. All photos may be used by the City for reporting and education purposes.
- Completed and signed Property Owner Consent Form if you are not the property owner

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

- Food grade barrel only, 40-80 gallons
- Container shall not have been used to store oils or chemicals
- Stable, level platform a minimum of 12" above ground level
- Screening or other material covering barrel openings
- Overflow piping of 1" in diameter (1½" is recommended) or greater, pointed away from structures and impervious surfaces that don't allow water to seep into the ground
- Conveyance system from roof directing water to barrel Gutters not required, but strongly suggested.
- See Frequently Asked Questions for detailed instructions.
- If connected to another collection device, the connector shall be 1½" in diameter or greater

VIRTUAL SITE VISITS

Do you need help or guidance for selecting a good location for your rain barrel? The City offers virtual site visits that usually take no more than 20 minutes and are easy to do with a smartphone or tablet. Attendance at a Rainwater Guardian Workshop is required before a virtual site visit is scheduled. Email RainwaterRebates@stpete.org or call 727-892-5611 to schedule.

CAUTION:

A FULL 55-GALLON RAIN BARREL WEIGHS 415 POUNDS.



For detailed rainwater collection planning and building guidelines, read *Rain Barrels: A Homeowners Guide* found at stpete.org/WaterPrograms.



RAINWATER REBATE PROGRAM: RAIN TOTES



Device Type	Rain Barrel (275 or 330 gallons)
Rebate Amount	\$100

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ Rainwater Guardian Workshop attendance
- ☐ Completed and signed rebate application
- ☐ At least three photos of installed and connected device illustrating entire conveyance system from roof to container including the overflow from the device away from the platform and foundation. All photos may be used by the City for reporting and education purposes.
- ☐ Completed and signed Property Owner Consent Form if you are not the property owner

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ IBC (International Bulk Container) only, 275 or 330 gallons
- ☐ Container shall not have been used to store oils or chemicals
- ☐ Container shall have sturdy metal frame
- ☐ Stable, level platform a minimum of 12" above ground level
- ☐ Screening or other material covers container openings
- ☐ Overflow piping of 1" in diameter (1 1/2" is recommended) or greater, pointed away from structures and impervious surfaces that don't allow water to seep into the ground
- ☐ Conveyance system from roof (such as a gutter downspout) directing water to container
- ☐ If connected to another collection device, the connector shall be 1 1/2" in diameter or greater

VIRTUAL SITE VISITS

Do you need help or guidance for selecting a good location for your rain barrel? The City offers virtual site visits that usually take no more than 20 minutes and are easy to do with a smartphone or tablet. Attendance at a Rainwater Guardian Workshop is required before a virtual site visit is scheduled. Email RainwaterRebates@stpete.org or call 727-892-5611 to schedule.

CAUTION

A FULL 275-GALLON RAIN TOTE WEIGHS 2,280 POUNDS.

For detailed rainwater collection planning and building guidelines, read *Rain Barrels: A Homeowners Guide* found at stpete.org/WaterPrograms.



Water Conservation Office
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RAINWATER REBATE PROGRAM: RAIN GARDENS



A rain garden is a planted depression that is designed to catch rainwater runoff and filter it back into the ground.

Device Type	Rain Garden
Rebate Amount	\$100
Maximum Rebates per Property, Total	2

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

1. Review St. Petersburg's Rain Garden Design Guide at stpete.org/waterprograms for guidelines, helpful images, sample designs, lists of suggested plants and additional resources.
2. Submit a simple sketch which identifies the garden's location in relation to all structures, plus all garden measurements (length, width, maximum depth) for City approval.
3. For detailed rain garden planning and building guidelines, read *Rain Gardens: A Manual for Central Florida Residents* at rb.gy/fc5f2f.

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

- Conveyance system from roof (such as a gutter downspout) directing water to rain garden. Adequate overflow piping from a rain barrel or tote is an acceptable alternative.
- Rain garden shall be placed a minimum of 10 feet from a building.
- Minimum size is 50 square feet.
- Maximum allowable size is 400 square feet.
- Garden should not be any deeper in the middle than eight 8 inches below ground level, with gradually sloping sides (no steep drops in elevation).
- No Florida Noxious Weeds or 2019 Category 1 Invasive Exotic plants should be planted, as defined by the Florida Invasive Species Council (floridainvasivespecies.org).
- Contact Sunshine Call Before You Dig and have all utility lines located for free (call 811 or request ticket online at sunshine811.com) before any excavation starts. Request should be at least two business days before digging to allow enough time for site to be marked by all utilities.

VIRTUAL SITE VISITS

Do you need help or guidance for selecting a good location for your rain garden? The City offers virtual site visits that usually take no more than 20 minutes and are easy to do with a smartphone or tablet. Attendance at a Rainwater Guardian Workshop is required before a virtual site visit is scheduled. Email RainwaterRebates@stpete.org or call 727-892-5611 to schedule.



SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ Rainwater Guardian Workshop attendance
- ☐ At least two photos of installed and connected garden illustrating entire conveyance system from roof
- ☐ Final rain garden sketch as installed
- ☐ Final plant list

