



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual Rain Barrel Program Kicks Off
Rain Barrels for Sale Now Through June 2, 2014

Each spring, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission offers rain barrels from the Great American Rain Barrel Company at the wholesale price of \$69, 40% off the retail price. To order, visit www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com (click “Shop Local Programs” then “Springfield”), email info@tgarb.com, or call (800) 251-2352. Order forms are also available on our website www.waterandsewer.org and at our Bondi’s Island and Operations Center locations. The deadline to order a rain barrel is Monday, June 2, 2014 at 5:00 pm. Barrels will be available for pickup on Saturday, June 7, 2014 from 9:00am to 11:00am at our Operations Center, 71 Colton Street, Springfield.

In New England, residential water usage can increase as much as 60% during the spring, summer and fall seasons from outdoor watering needs such as watering gardens and lawns, filling pools, and washing cars. Rain barrels are a low cost conservation alternative to supplement some of these seasonal water needs. The rain barrel works by capturing rain water from rooftops and collecting it in a 60-gallon barrel. The barrel is retro-fitted with a spigot for distributing water to the landscape, car washing, or other outdoor use.

It only takes a ¼-inch of rainfall to fill the 60-gallon rain barrel when it’s connected to a household gutter. In Massachusetts, it rains 130 days per year on average. If the rain barrel is used during half of those 130 days, then it would collect 3,900 gallons of water per year. That’s a savings of about \$27 in tap water. For those who regularly water lawns and gardens, a \$69 investment on a rain barrel will easily pay for itself in two to three years.

For more information, please call (413) 787-6256 or email rainbarrel@waterandsewer.org.

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