



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Offers Rain Barrels
to Customers at Wholesale Price**

Rain Barrels for Sale for \$69 Now Through May 6, 2018

Ahead of the spring growing season, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is offering rain barrels to its customers to supplement outdoor water needs. Customers can order a 60-gallon rain barrel in one of four different colors from the Great American Rain Barrel Company for \$69, a significant savings compared to the retail price of \$119.

Orders must be placed by Sunday, May 6, 2018, at midnight. The barrels will be available for pickup on Saturday, May 12, 2018, from 9 am to 12 pm at the Commission's Operations Center at 71 Colton Street in Springfield. Ahead of the pickup date, a rain barrel will be on display at 71 Colton Street as well as the Commission's Administration Building at 250 M Street Extension (Bondi's Island) in Agawam. 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 the Commission's website, <http://waterandsewer.org/education-and-community/rain-barrel-sale/>, and at the Bondi's Island and Operations Center locations.

Rain barrels capture rain water from rooftops and are retrofitted with a spigot for outdoor use. In New England, residential water usage can increase as much as 60% during the spring, summer, and fall seasons due to the watering of gardens and lawns, filling pools, and washing cars. Rain barrels are a low-cost conservation alternative to supplement some of these seasonal water needs. In addition, rain barrels capture rain water that might otherwise have flowed into storm drains, reducing combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges into waterways.

Only ¼-inch of rainfall is needed to fill the 60-gallon rain barrel when it is connected to a household gutter. Rain in Massachusetts averages 130 days per year. If the rain barrel is used during half of those days, it will collect 3,900 gallons of water, an equivalent to approximately \$40 in tap water. For those who regularly water lawns and gardens, a \$69 investment in a rain barrel will easily pay for itself in two to three years.



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For more information, please call (413) 452-1330 or email ingrid.williams@waterandsewer.org or rainbarrel@waterandsewer.org.

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