



**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 11, 2019

As the spring growing season gets underway, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is offering rain barrels at wholesale prices 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 Saturday, May 11, 2019, at midnight. The barrels will be available for pickup on Saturday, May 18, 2019, 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 at <http://waterandsewer.org/education-and-community/rain-barrel-program/>. For more information or to have order forms sent, customers may also call (413) 452-1330 or email ingrid.williams@waterandsewer.org.

In addition this year, residents of Old Hill, Upper Hill, and McKnight neighborhoods are eligible to receive a free rain barrel (while supplies last) courtesy of the Commission if they sign up to plant two or more trees on their property through the [Greening the Gateway Cities](#) program. Residents of these neighborhoods interested in planting trees should sign up at <https://www.springfield-ma.gov/ggcp> or call the City's 3-1-1 line.



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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 pay for itself in two to three years.

END