



**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 \$79 Now Through June 7, 2021*

As the 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 \$79 (plus tax), a significant savings compared to the retail price of \$119.

Orders must be placed by Monday, June 7, 2021, at midnight. The barrels will be available for pickup on Saturday, June 19, 2021 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Commission's Operations Center at 71 Colton Street in Springfield. To maintain social distancing and adhere to COVID-19 protocols, customers can safely and easily pick up their rain barrel with curbside, contactless pickup.

Those interested in purchasing a rain barrel through the program should note that pick-up is only available on Saturday, June 19th at the designated time. Advanced or late pick-up will not be available.

To order, visit <https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/> and select "Springfield" under community programs. More information is also available on the Commission's website at <https://waterandsewer.org/education/rain-barrel-program/>, or by contacting the Commission at (413) 452-1300 or email [info@waterandsewer.org](mailto:info@waterandsewer.org).

Rain barrels capture rainwater 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 rainwater 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 \$50 in tap water. For those who regularly water lawns and gardens, a \$79 investment in a rain barrel will pay for itself in about two years.

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