



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

Date of Issuance: February 28, 2024

Contact: Katie Shea, Communications Specialist
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission
Tel: 413-452-1311
Email: katherine.shea@waterandsewer.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Announces Annual Rain Barrel Sale

The public can purchase discounted rain barrels to supplement outdoor water needs

As the spring gardening season quickly approaches, 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 three different colors from the Great American Rain Barrel Company for \$89 (plus tax).

Orders must be placed by April 28, 2024, at midnight. The barrels will be available for pickup on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 8AM -12PM at the Commission's Operations Center at 71 Colton Street in Springfield.

Those interested in purchasing a rain barrel through the program should note that pick-up is only available on Saturday, May 18th 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.

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 \$60 in tap water. For those



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

who regularly water lawns and gardens, a \$89 investment in a rain barrel will pay for itself in less than two years.

About the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is an independent, regional public utility that provides drinking water and wastewater service to approximately 250,000 people in the lower Pioneer Valley. The Commission provides retail drinking water service to Springfield and Ludlow, and regional drinking treatment to Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, and Southwick, as well as emergency/peak service to several other communities. The Commission provides retail wastewater service to Springfield and regional wastewater treatment to West Springfield, Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, and Ludlow.

About the Great American Rain Barrel

The Great American Rain Barrel is a local food-import company that has been repurposing shipping drums into Rain Barrels since 1988. The Great American Rain Barrel Co. has been an approved vendor by the MASS DEP since 2010.

END