



RAIN BARREL REBATE PROGRAM *Homeowner Guide*

Rainwater harvesting systems capture and store the rainwater running off your rooftop. Captured water can be used for numerous things including watering your lawn or garden, filling ponds and even washing your car.

Why are there rebates for rainwater harvesting systems?

For this program the City of Springfield, Greene County Resource Management, and City Utilities provide rebate funding for Greene County and the Cities of Ozark and Nixa, and Christian County Resource Management provide funding for Christian county. The rebate is provided on rainwater harvesting systems because of their stormwater management and water conservation benefits. Rainwater flows off of impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, and roads while picking up and caring pollutants into our streams and rivers. Rainwater harvesting reduces stormwater runoff from your rooftop, which helps to protect water quality, minimize erosion, and reduce flooding. Rainwater harvesting also conserves drinking water by capturing the rainwater as a resource for non-potable uses. Reusing rainwater in your yard or garden allows it to soak into the ground, recharging our groundwater supply.

How much is the rebate?

This one-time rebate is issued as a direct reimbursement to homeowners at a rate of fifty cents per gallon based upon the system's capacity. For example, a 100-gallon system would yield a \$50 rebate after installation. To qualify, systems must hold a minimum of 50 gallons. Maximum rebate per property is \$300.

Who is eligible for the rebate?

Residents of Greene and Christian County are eligible to receive a rebate.

5 Steps to a Rain Barrel Rebate

- 1. Review** rebate materials on the web at JamesRiverBasin.com/rebates, request by email tfrey@missouristate.edu, or call (417)-836-8878.
- 2. Assess** your potential rain barrel site to determine the best location, volume, and type of barrel. Take *before photo(s)* of the location without the barrel installed.
- 3. Purchase** a rain barrel or other rainwater harvesting system.
- 4. Install** your new barrel or rainwater harvesting system and take *after photos* of the system installed.
- 5. Submit** your signed program materials, receipt and photos to the James River Basin Partnership. You will receive your rebate check within 2-6 weeks once your application is reviewed and approved.



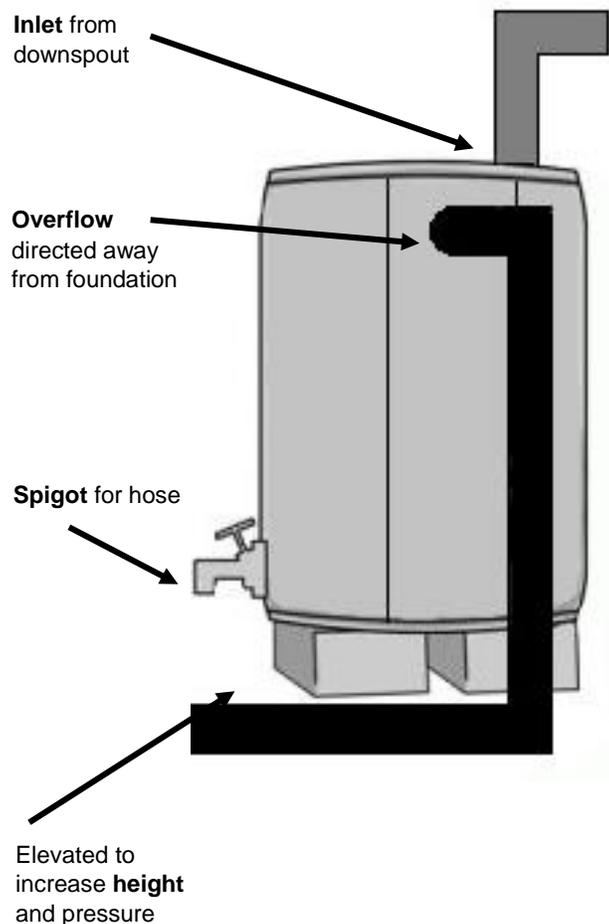
Thank you to the Alliance for Chesapeake Bay for sharing the format and information from their rain barrel program.

Rainwater Harvesting Considerations



Below you will see the common features of most rainwater harvesting systems. Please consider them carefully when choosing your system.

- **Volume:** A barrel typically holds a minimum of 50 gallons. Every square foot of roof will collect 0.6 gallons per inch of rain. The volume of water from a single rain event can be tremendous, so be sure to carefully plan an overflow system. To increase collection capacity, barrels can be 'daisy chained' together or purchase a larger tank or system.
- **Inlet:** Water should either enter from a hose connected to a diverter, or the inlet must be screened to prevent leaf debris and mosquito larvae from entering.
- **Overflow:** All rainwater harvesting systems should have an overflow. Overflows must be directed away from the house to prevent damage to your foundation. This is typically done using a hose or pipe at least 2" in diameter near the top of the barrel or the overflow may be a diverter that allows excess rain to continue down the downspout.
- **Spigot:** The spigot should be within 3" of the bottom of the barrel. Consider using a threaded spigot that will allow you to attach a gardening hose.
- **Height:** To increase water pressure, barrel(s) can be elevated or use a solar pump. A two foot increase in elevation equals a gain of approximately one pound of pressure per square inch. If the unit is elevated it must be structurally sound.



Choosing the Right System and Installation Site

There are many options for size, shape, volume and placement of a rainwater harvesting system. Here are six factors to keep in mind when choosing a system and selecting the right location for installation.

- **Need for Water**

Where do you plan to water your lawn, wash your car, or maintain your landscaping or garden? Attach the rainwater harvesting system to a downspout close to areas where water is frequently needed.

- **Ease of Use**

The system should be at a higher elevation than the areas where the water will be used so that a garden hose (or soaker hose) can be used. The system can be placed on bricks or cinder blocks to slightly increase water pressure. If the system is below where the water is needed, then the water will have to be carried or pumped.

- **Available Space**

Rainwater harvesting systems come in many different shapes and sizes. Do not place the system where it will be obstructing a walkway, basement entrance, or within 18 inches of electric and gas meters. Be sure the surface is level so the system will be stable when full.

- **Runoff volume**

Runoff volume can be very high, which is one reason it is critical to have a good overflow system. A roof of 1,000 sq. feet can capture 600 gallons in a 1 inch rain. Southwest Missouri gets an average of 45 inches of rain a year. That means a 1,000 sq. foot roof could collect over 27,000 gallons per year!

- **Overflow**

In most cases, the rainwater harvesting systems will not be large enough to capture *all* of the water from a downspout, and it will fill up quickly during a heavy rainstorm. Your system should have an overflow design that diverts water back into the downspout when the barrel is full, or to a pipe that drains away from your home. It's important that the diameter of the overflow pipe be at least as wide as the inlet pipe so that once the system is full excess water can exit at the same rate it enters the system. If this is not the case, the system may overflow and water may collect near your foundation.

- **Accessibility & Maintenance**

Many systems have filters that capture leaves and debris from the roof. If yours does not, it is a good idea to add one. The filter will need to be regularly emptied when it is full to prevent clogging. Be sure to place the barrel in such a way that there is easy access to the filter to maintain its functionality.

Greene Co Rebate Funded By:



Christian Co Rebate Funded By:



Frequently Asked Questions:

Get in Touch!

Please don't hesitate to contact us with additional questions or concerns. We welcome your feedback and would appreciate hearing about your experience as a participant in the Rain Barrel Rebate Program.

Program Contact

Tiffany Frey
James River Basin Partnership

Email
tfrey@missouristate.edu

Phone
417-836-8878

Mailing Address
**901 S. National, PCOB
Springfield, MO 65897**

Physical Address
**117 Park Central
Springfield, MO 65802**

Web
JamesRiverBasin.com/rebates

What else can you do to protect water quality?

Keep as much rainwater on site as possible by planting a rain garden or planting trees. Also, don't over fertilize your lawn and report storm drain pollution by calling 417-864-1010.

Why collect rainwater?

Collecting and using rainwater helps reduce the demand on public and private water supplies, and reduces pollution, flooding, and erosion in local waterways by reducing stormwater runoff.

How do I use the water?

The water that you collect in your system can be used to water indoor and outdoor potted plants and landscaped areas, clean off gardening tools, wash your car, and for other non-potable uses.

How do I install a rainwater harvesting system?

Most systems are easy to install. Methods vary depending on the type of system you purchase. Typically you will need to either insert a diverter into your downspout or shorten your downspout and use an elbow or section of flexible downspout to direct the water into the system. Elevating the barrel on blocks will create increased flow.

Will my system be a source of mosquitoes?

If you have an open system, the screen mesh should be small enough to prevent adult mosquitos from entering to lay their eggs. However, if mosquitos are a concern you could place a mosquito "dunk" or "donut" in the container to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. These products are non-toxic, inexpensive, and widely available. Placing a cap full of vegetable oil in your system periodically can also prevent mosquitos from hatching. Using a 'closed system' such as a diverter and hose into a closed container can further reduce the risk of mosquito infestation.

Can I link systems together?

Yes! Most systems can be linked to collect more water from one downspout. This is called daisy-chaining.

What about debris from the roof?

Most prefabricated open systems have a screen to keep debris from entering the collection container. Diverters are typically designed to allow the debris to continue down the downspout while the water is diverted to the system. The majority of pollutants found on the roof are found in the first flush of rain. Roof washers can be added to divert the first flush away from the barrel and they are widely available online.

Thank you to the Alliance for Chesapeake Bay for assisting with the creation of our Rain Barrel Rebate Guide.