

Rain Barrel Rebate Program Requirements

1. Rebates are up to \$200 per 50 gallons of storage capacity or up to the total cost of the rain barrel or cistern, not including sales tax, whichever is less. Limit of **2 barrels** per water account.
2. For self-made rain barrel systems, the rebate amount may be applied to the costs (before sales tax) associated with the purchase of accompanying accessories/hardware necessary for installing a rain barrel or modifying a downspout to connect a barrel (does not apply to new or replaced gutters or downspouts).
3. Qualifying rain barrels or cisterns must be newly purchased, a minimum size of 50 gallons, and designed for the intended purpose of rain capture.
4. Rain barrel or cistern must have a secure lid for child safety and rust-proof fine mesh screening (e.g., like that on a window screen) or sealed designs for vector control (mosquito, rodent) and debris control.
5. The rain barrel or cistern must be connected to a rain gutter downspout, rain chain, or other effective means of capturing concentrated flow from roofs or other impervious surfaces.
6. Rain barrel or cistern must not be connected to the (potable water) irrigation system and collected rainwater must be utilized via a hose or bucket only.
7. Rain barrel must be placed on a solid and level foundation, such as concrete pad, pavers, or bricks for appropriate stability.
8. Rain barrel must not block or restrict access to walkways or pathways, which may become a safety/emergency access issue.
9. Rain barrel or cistern must be algae and UV-resistant or specially constructed sun barriers must be used.
10. Copper materials (including downspouts) are not allowed due to potential leaching concerns.
11. Overflow pipe from rain barrels or cisterns must be directed away from buildings and/or adjacent properties and may flow to landscape (preferred).
12. Manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions must be followed.
13. The rain barrel or cistern rebate application must be postmarked within 90 days of rain barrel purchase date.
14. The original rain barrel or cistern purchase receipt must be included with the application.
15. Pre-installation and post-installation photos must be included with the application. At least two clear photos of each barrel must be submitted, showing downspout connections, secured lid and overflow valve, and an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet showing the date and water account number (include photos taken from at least two directions).
16. All sites are subject to post-installation inspection at the discretion of the Participating Agency or the local mosquito and vector control agency, where applicable. The Participating Agency that serves the site in question will contact the customer and, at the agency's discretion, perform the

post-installation inspection.

17. A separate application must be submitted for each metered address.
18. Rain barrels or cisterns must be installed within the County of San Mateo to be eligible for a rebate from San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program.
19. All rebates are subject to availability of funds.
20. Rebates may take up to eight (8) weeks to process.
21. If customer needs their original receipt(s) returned, they must enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with their application.
22. Applicant certifies that necessary permissions have been obtained from the property owner, if applicant is not the owner.
23. Limit of two rebates per single-family residential account or four rebates per commercial account. Applications for more than four rebates for a commercial account will be considered on a case by case basis. If more than four rebates are requested for a commercial account, pre-approval is required but not necessarily guaranteed.
24. Rain barrel or cistern must be maintained for a minimum of three years upon receipt of rebate, including ongoing maintenance to ensure that the barrel does not become a breeding site for mosquitos and thereby a public health threat.
25. Rebates may be issued as checks or as credits to the customer's water service account, at the discretion of the participating BAWSCA agency.
26. Participants must allow BAWSCA and the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program to reference the project and use photos submitted with the application in outreach materials and must respond to minimal requests for information about the project for purposes of Program reporting.

Installation Recommendations

The Program will include the following installation recommendations:

- Refer to the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association's Rain Barrels and Cisterns: Stormwater Control for Small Projects for installation guidance.
- Locate the rain barrel on a raised foundation to accommodate a watering can and increase gravity flow.
- Placement of the outlet pipe/faucet a maximum of 6 inches from the bottom of rain barrel.
- Consider strapping rain barrel similar to earthquake straps for hot water heaters, or per manufacturer recommendations.
- Consider limiting height:width ratio of the rain barrel to 2:1 to prevent instability.