



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: RAINWATER REBATE PROGRAM

WHY DO I HAVE TO TAKE A CLASS?

The City wants you to succeed with creating, installing and maintaining your rainwater collection device. The educational component is designed to provide information necessary to install and maintain each device in a safe and efficient manner. Classes cover a range of topics, including mosquito control/prevention, safety concerns due to the volume and weight of the captured rainwater, and animal and public safety issues.

HOW DO I PROVE THAT I HAVE ATTENDED A CLASS?

If you registered for and attended a virtual class, the Rainwater Rebate Office will have your name on the check-in list.

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE A RAIN BARREL, RAIN TOTE OR RAIN GARDEN?

If you can prove that you have a rainwater collection device that is in good working order (and collecting rainwater), and if the rain garden has healthy plant material and is not overgrown or weedy, you may be eligible for a rebate. An existing rain barrel must have a capacity of 40-80 gallons and an existing rain tote must have a capacity of 275 or 330 gallons to be eligible for a rebate. All other eligibility requirements must be met, including class attendance.

WHERE CAN I FIND THESE RAINWATER COLLECTION DEVICES?

Rain barrels of various sizes and shapes can be found in many local retail stores and online. Local businesses also sell rain totes. An online search using the words “water tote” or “water container” along with the words “and Florida” will produce many results, including businesses that provide recycled or reconditioned products. Rain garden materials, including native and Florida-friendly plants, can be found in local plant nurseries and retail stores. When purchasing supplies, ensure that the specific device requirements of the Rainwater Rebate Program are met, such as barrels and totes that did not have oil or chemicals in them.

I RENT THE PROPERTY WHERE I WISH TO INSTALL A RAINWATER CATCHMENT DEVICE. CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Since these devices will alter the property, owner approval is required. The owner will need to read, approve and sign the application. Alternatively, the property owner can complete and sign a Property Owner Consent Form. If you are applying as a renter, call this out when you contact the City.

(Continued on reverse)



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DON'T RAINWATER COLLECTORS ATTRACT MOSQUITOES?

Any standing water, mud puddle and other water-holding yard component could allow mosquito adults to lay eggs, and for larvae to grow. Research shows that mosquitoes require 7 to 12 days of standing water or mud to lay and hatch eggs. There are several methods and products that will help prevent egg laying and larvae growth in rainwater collection devices. This is one of the important topics we cover in our classes.

IS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE GUTTERING IN ORDER TO HAVE A CATCHMENT DEVICE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE REBATE PROGRAM?

While having a guttering system is optimal to catch as much rainwater as possible, it is not required. You can position the catchment device under areas where flow is concentrated, such as a roof valley. Another alternative is installing a small gutter section no less than three feet long onto the building's eave to direct flow into the device.

NOTE: Rainwater collected in catchment devices should not be used as a drinking water source.

Question or comment? Contact the Water Resources Department Water Conservation Office at RainwaterRebates@stpete.org or 727-892-5611.