



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: RAINWATER REBATE PROGRAM

WHAT ITEMS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REBATE REIMBURSEMENT?

Imported soil, soil amendments, ground cover cloth, compost, fertilizer, delivery charges, labor charges, tools such as shovels and rakes, items related to property improvements such as retention walls and sidewalks, pumps, irrigation or micro-irrigation systems, cypress mulch, shell, bed edging, pavers, hoses and hose nozzles, etc. If you are considering an item that is not on this list, call or email to verify eligibility before purchase.

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 element is designed to provide information necessary to plan and manage 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?

The City partners with other environmental groups to provide classes. If you have attended or will attend a class from one of these partners, and are a St. Petersburg stormwater utility customer, you should receive proof of attendance from the sponsor. 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 (attached to a guttering system, 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 or 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.

I RECEIVED A FREE RAIN BARREL FROM THE CITY, SO HAVE NO RECEIPT. CAN I RECEIVE A REBATE?

Yes, if you can provide proof of attendance from the class where you received the barrel, plus receipts for installation materials, as listed in the following device-specific pages. Class attendance will be verified by the City. All other eligibility requirements must be met.

(Continued on reverse)



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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.

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.

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.