

H₂O C RAINSMART REBATES PILOT PROGRAM

Residential Rainwater Collection Materials and Installation Guide

Use this guide to select, purchase, and install materials for your project. Your rain collection project could include constructing a rain garden or installing a rain container to collect rainwater for use around your property.



Rain gardens are gardens planted in a small depression that provides a place for runoff to collect and infiltrate. They may be vegetated or rock-lined, such as in a dry creek bed. Rainwater falling on your roof must flow to a rain garden and you can either replace your downspout(s) with a rain chain or simply redirect your downspout so rainwater flows to the garden.



Materials Needed

To redirect rainwater effectively, you may need to buy these specific materials depending on your home setup, landscape, and preferences

- A rain chain to direct water to the feature (if desired)
Accessories, such as:
 - Rain chain installation kit, debris blocker, and anchor stake
 - Downspout extender or splashblock
 - Optional: Rain container (or two), and a short garden hose to direct overflow to feature

Installation Guidance

The following is general guidance for proper installation of a downspout directed to your garden. It is recommended that you seek professional assistance to retrofit your downspout, particularly if gutters need to be modified. Downspout and gutter work should be performed by general contractors, D-24 (metal products), and C-43 (sheet metal) licensed contractors.

- Ensure all rainwater falling on the roof area selected for collecting will be directed by gutters to the rain chain or downspout.
- If installing rain barrels, all overflow should be directed to the garden. Rain barrels should not restrict access to walkways or pathways.



Containers are large rain barrels that can typically collect all the rainwater from a portion of roof. They are often called cisterns. They come in numerous sizes and shapes. Measure your roof area and collaborate with program staff to choose the right container size.



Materials Needed

To install a container, you may need to buy these specific materials depending on your home setup, landscape, and preferences.

- A container that is constructed out of hard, rigid plastic and must continuously maintain its shape (collapsible/ flexible/soft-sided or homemade containers are not allowed)
- Additional valves, pipes, and fittings
- A spigot and hose for overflow
- A cover to prevent mosquitos, rodents, and debris from entering

Installation Guidance

The following is general guidance for proper installation of a container. It is recommended that you seek professional assistance to retrofit your downspout, particularly if gutters need to be modified. Downspout and gutter work should be performed by general contractors, D-24 (metal products), and C-43 (sheet metal) licensed contractors.

- Check with your city and community association to understand all regulations, permitting requirements, and landscape requirement prior to selecting and installing a cistern or container.
- Mount your container so that it receives all water unimpeded from a downspout.
- Ensure the container is elevated 6 inches off the ground on a solid foundation and does not block or restrict access to walkways or pathways.
- The container should be strapped to your home for safety if the container height is two times greater than the width.
- Ensure that any overflow will be directed to adjacent landscaping.