



CITY OF CAPE CANAVERAL

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Adopt-A-Rain Barrel Program Information + Guidelines

City of Cape Canaveral

Community and Economic Development Department: Resilience Division

Overview

The City of Cape Canaveral (City) Adopt-A-Rain Barrel Program provides interested residents with the opportunity to “adopt” rain barrels. This is a voluntary and no-cost program for residents and business owners of Cape Canaveral to use rain barrels on their property to lower municipal water consumption as well as capture and reuse stormwater runoff. The Cape Canaveral Adopt-A-Rain Barrel Program runs in conjunction with the [City of Cocoa Rain Barrel Rebate Program](#). **As such, participants who wish to receive a rain barrel from the City of Cape Canaveral AND receive a rebate from the City of Cocoa must follow the guidelines in both programs.** These guidelines ensure and maintain resident safety, City code, state compliance, and local environmental wellbeing. Additional information presented in this guide comes from the United States [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA), The [National Service Center for Environmental Publications](#) (NSCEP), [The Conservation Foundation](#), and [The World Wildlife Foundation](#).



Figure 1. Painted rain barrels.

Questions about the City of Cape Canaveral Adopt-A-Rain Barrel Program can be directed to the City’s Resilience Division

Email resiliencedivision@cityofcapecanaveral.org.

Phone (321) 868 - 1220

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Program Outline

- Each quarter, the City will purchase up to ten 55-gallon rain barrels from a local provider to distribute to eligible Adopt-A-Rain Barrel applicants.
- The City will maintain an online application page for rain barrels on a first-come, first-serve basis, shared on all official City mediums. The application includes a usage and maintenance agreement with electronic signature to submit the form.
- After 10 applications, the portal will close until the next quarter. A staff member will reach out to program participants within five business days to approve an application and coordinate a time for rain barrel pickup at the City's Water Reclamation Facility at 601 Thurm Boulevard.
- Only City of Cape Canaveral residents, property owners, and/or renters are eligible for program participation. Proof of residence will be required via the application (preferred) or upon pickup of each rain barrel.
 - Renters need written permission from the rental property owner to install and operate a rain barrel (via email or mailed letter, sent to City staff or included in the application).
 - Condominium and apartment residents need written permission by a condominium association board or president, or by renter organization (via email or mailed letter, sent to City staff or included in the application).
- A property or participant may only receive one rain barrel per year and a maximum of two barrels during the lifetime of the program.
- Cape Canaveral Adopt-A-Rain Barrel participants who wish to take advantage of the [City of Cocoa Rain Barrel Rebate Program](#) must receive their rain barrel and approval from the City of Cape Canaveral staff **PRIOR** to applying for the Cocoa rebate.

- Cape Canaveral staff will share with the Cocoa Conservation Office which Cape Canaveral residents have adopted rain barrels, as Cocoa's program requires receipts for proof of purchase.
- City Staff will host bi-annual (twice-yearly) workshops highlighting residential-based best stormwater management practices, green infrastructure, and rain barrel design. Times, dates, and locations for these events will be shared on the City's website, the Weekly Update, and its official social media channels.



Figure 2. Rain barrel diagram from the Philadelphia Water Department.

Eligibility Requirements

The eligibility requirements for the City's Adopt-A-Rain Barrel Program are as follows:

1. Applicant must fill out form on the Adopt-A-Rain Barrel Program Page in completion, including the installation and maintenance agreement and hold-harmless agreement.
2. Applicant must be 18 years of age or older.
3. Applicant must reside or own property within Cape Canaveral City limits and be able to show proof of residence/ownership. Applicants can include written permission and proof of residence in their application or provide it after the fact.
 - a. Renters need written permission from rental property owner to receive a rain barrel.
 - b. Condominium and apartment owners need written permission by a condominium association board or president.

Addressed to: Attn: Adopt-A-Rain Barrel 100 Polk Ave Cape Canaveral, FL 32920	Emailed to: resiliencedivision@cityofcapecanaveral.org Subject Line: Adopt-A-Rain Barrel + Street Address
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4. Applicant must be able to meet City staff at the pickup location and have a way to transport the rain barrel.
5. Applicant must be able to properly install the provided rain barrel on their property and not within the City's Right-of-Way (ROW).
6. Applicant must be in good standing in regards to City ordinances prior to applying.
7. Applicant must agree to a brief inspection by City staff to ensure proper installation up to 30 days after receiving their barrel.

City of Cocoa Rain Barrel Rebate Program

Cape Canaveral residents who “adopt” a rain barrel from the City may be eligible for the City of Cocoa Rain Barrel Rebate program. Review the eligibility requirements from the City of Cocoa’s Rain Barrel Rebate [program page](#) below to see if you qualify.*

**Please note: it is each individual’s responsibility to apply for the City of Cocoa Rain Barrel Rebate.*

Rebate Eligibility Requirements



- 1. Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis and are given as a credit on your water bill. The Rain Barrel Rebate Program runs each fiscal year from October 1 through September 29 or until funds are depleted. You must purchase the rain barrel after October 1 and during the same fiscal year that the rebate is available. All paperwork must be submitted prior to the close of the program.*
- 2. Applicant must have a water account in his/her name and must be a Cocoa Utilities Department customer.*
- 3. The rain barrel must be installed at the property that receives a water bill from Cocoa Utilities Dept.*
- 4. A maximum of two rebates per address is allowed during the lifetime of the program. A \$50.00 credit will be applied to the water account for each rain barrel installed for a maximum of two.*
- 5. You must provide receipts and UPC bar codes for all items*
- 6. It is the customer's responsibility to ensure proper installation. Cocoa does not recommend any brand or manufacture of rain barrel.*
- 7. Upon inspection, and receipt and review of the completed rebate form, original receipt and UPC bar code for each rebate, if approved, a credit will be applied to the water account that is on the application. Applications will not be processed if they are incomplete or inspections are not completed.*
- 8. Customers are responsible for calling and setting up an appointment so that the rain barrel can be inspected by the Water Conservation Officer, Monday - Friday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.*

What are Rain Barrels?

A rain barrel is any vessel meant to collect and store rainwater for later use, including a bucket or a tub. This diverts water away from hard surfaces that lead to municipal stormwater pipes, and reduces the demand on local aquifers and water systems like lakes and rivers. Water harvested in barrels is best used for watering raised garden beds, vegetables, and potted plants, car-washing, foot-rinsing, and other non-broad application irrigation.

A rain barrel usually consists of four main components: a downspout, a barrel, an overflow "valve", and a spigot. Runoff from a roof enters a **downspout**, typically connected to a building's gutter system. The downspout collects water into a **barrel**, which can hold many gallons of water depending on its size. Barrels typically have an **overflow "valve"**, usually a hole, pipe, or opening a few inches below the top of the barrel. The valve is in place to allow an over-filled barrel to release excess water away from your property. Finally, a **spigot** is installed close to the bottom of the barrel to access the stored water. Using gravity to help the water flow, it is easily accessible to fill water cans, or to connect to a hose.



Figure 3. Rain barrels with labeled components.

How do Rain Barrels Help?

One of the biggest benefits of installing a rain barrel is reduced municipal water usage, which equates to dollars saved. According to the EPA, a rain barrel system can save the average homeowner 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months. Collecting stormwater runoff from building rooves also reduces runoff entering the local stormwater system, which can become inundated and/or flood in heavy rain events.

Rain barrels can reduce environmental damages, especially to bodies of water. During a rain event, once the ground becomes saturated, any excess water flows as runoff over hard surfaces towards storm drains and water bodies, picking up pollutants and excess nutrients along the way. Rain barrels capture a portion of roof runoff before it reaches the saturated ground, hard surface, or nearby storm drains, ultimately protecting water bodies like the Indian River Lagoon. If unused, the water inside a rain barrel can be let out slowly on a dry day, allowing the unsaturated grass to filter pollutants and nutrients as it percolates.



Figure 4. Example of a toxic algae bloom in the Indian River Lagoon.

Installing Your Rain Barrel

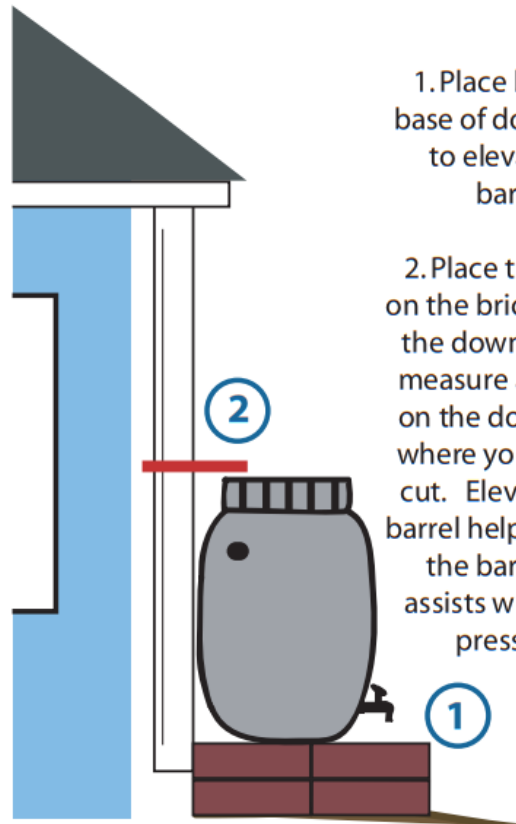
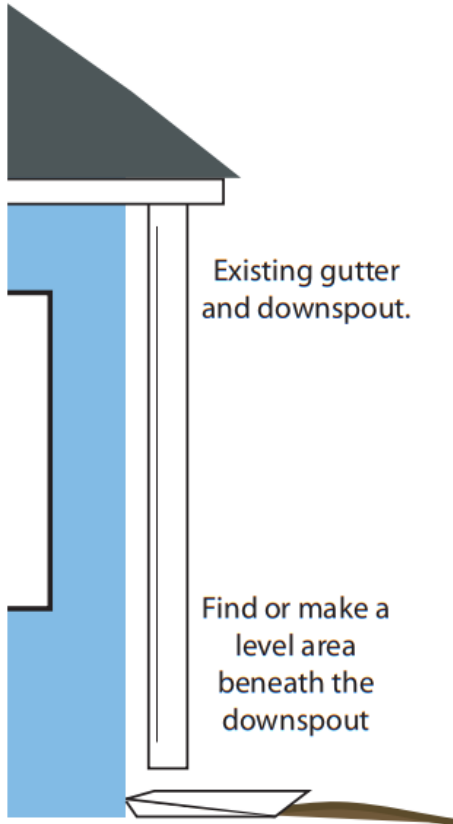
Although rain barrels can come in different size and shapes, the basic steps for [installation](#) are as follows (graphic on next page):

1. Ensure that the rain barrel has an overflow valve (or something equivalent) near the top of the barrel and a spigot hole close to the bottom. Most store-bought barrels have these pre-drilled. At-home projects can easily install holes with a power drill and proper-sized bit.
2. Level the area you would like to install or place the rain barrel. The rain barrel should sit directly in front of the house's downspout from any gutters.
3. Place bricks or cinder blocks at the base of the downspout to elevate the surface, and set the rain barrel on top. The bricks ensure that the barrel is stable, while elevating it allows gravity to assist with water pressure.
4. Mark on the downspout just above the top of the rain barrel and cut with a hacksaw. Save the detached downspout piece to reconnect in winter months with low precipitation or for future runoff projects. *
5. Attach an elbow or flexible extension to the new end of the downspout to direct water from your gutter into the barrel. *
6. Attach a standard hose or pipe to the overflow valve and direct it away from the foundation of your house. Attach a spigot to the bottom hole. You can either leave the spigot to fill watering cans, or attach a soaker hose for irrigation.
7. Cover any opening with screen or netting to keep things like debris and bugs out of your barrel.

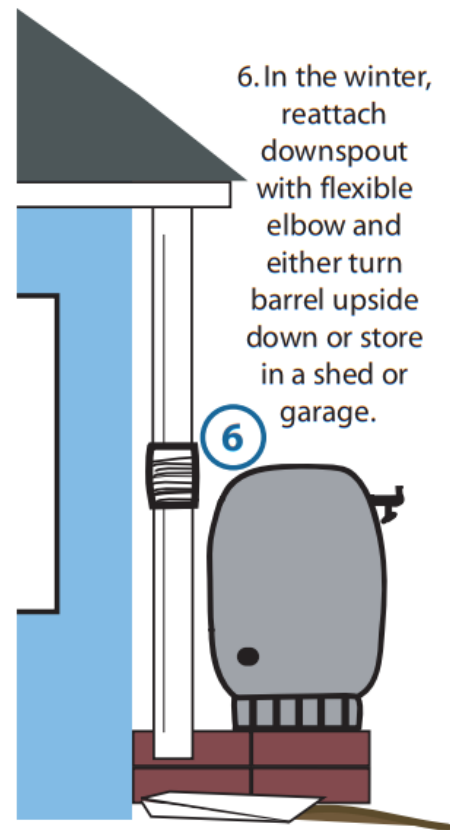
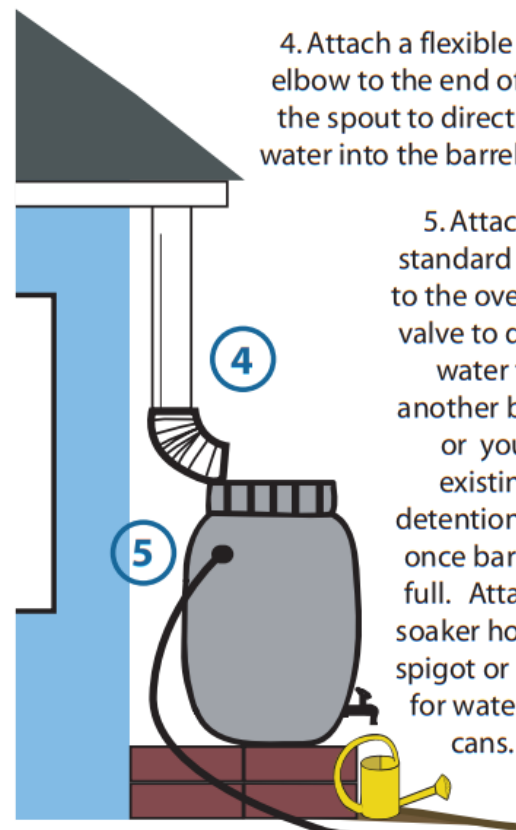
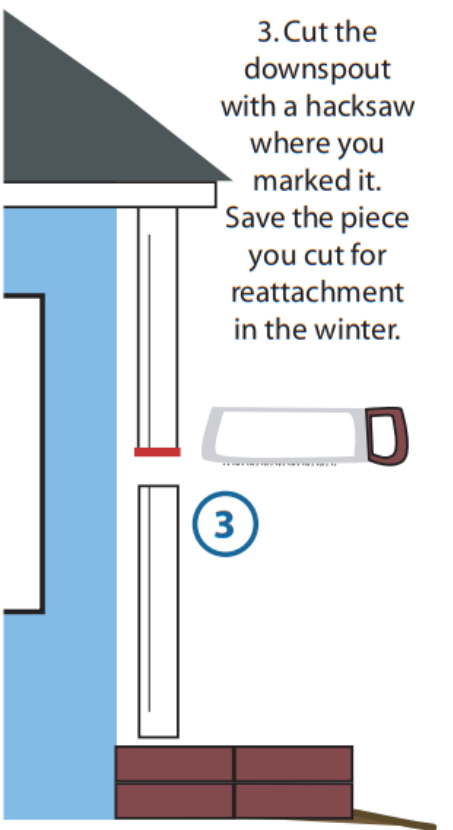
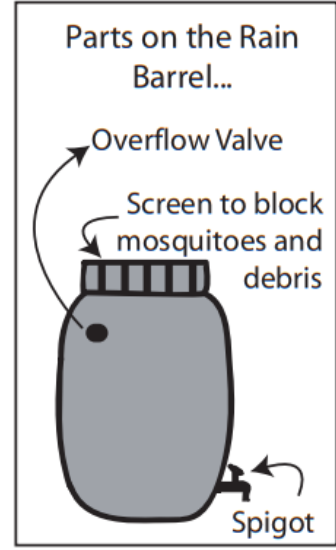
* Individuals who do not have gutters on their building can install a rain barrel following steps 1-3 and steps 6-7. Locate your rain barrel under a roof, awning, or other surface that experiences a lot of runoff, and open the entire top of the barrel. Store-bought barrels may have a removable lid; at-home projects can saw the top off and replace with netting to keep debris and bugs out.



How To Install Your Rain Barrel



- What You'll Need...**
- Hacksaw
 - Flexible Elbow
 - Bricks or cinder blocks for the stand
 - Hose for overflow
 - Hose or bucket for spigot



Using and Maintaining Your Rain Barrel

Runoff collected in rain barrels has a number of uses, such as indoor and outdoor potted plants, raised and/or vegetable gardens, car-washing, foot-rinsing, or small-application irrigation. Since the first precipitation that runs off roofs often contains high levels of pollutants and materials, it is important to follow a few tips to ensure you are using your rain barrel safely.

- If irrigating a food garden, do not water directly onto the plants. Instead, direct the water towards the soil, or utilize a method such as drip irrigation.
- Treat your water with a low concentration bleach solution. A 3% household bleach solution with a 5-6% chlorine content can be added at a rate of 8 drops per gallon of water. Treat your barrel no more than once per month, and wait 24 hours before utilizing the water. A typical 55-gallon barrel would need approximately one ounce (1 oz.) of bleach added on a monthly basis. This will help prevent E.coli bacteria, mosquito infestations, and algae growth. ([Rutgers University FS1218](#))
- If your rain barrel is full and needs to be emptied, open the spigot on a clear sunny day, and release the water slowly onto stable, non-eroding soil, such as a lawn. Make sure to do this before a rain event if the barrel is full, as overflow can cause erosion to nearby soil, or can leak towards the foundation of structure.
- In the winter or dry season, reattach the downspout to the elbow and either store the barrel in a shed or garage, or turn it upside down.



Figure 5. Examples of rain barrels in various styles, sizes, and configurations.

