



EVERY DROP COUNTS

City of Los Angeles, Keep Los Angeles Beautiful Rain Barrel Pilot Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Every Drop Counts Rain Barrel Pilot Program?

The City of Los Angeles, Keep Los Angeles Beautiful, in partnership with Coca Cola, is implementing a free rain barrel distribution program for City of Los Angeles residents. Residents of the City of Los Angeles are eligible to receive one free rain barrel. In exchange for a free rain barrel, the City of Los Angeles, is asking that eligible residents attend a free rain water harvesting workshop to receive instruction on the recommended way to install a rain barrel and other rain water harvesting ideas.

Why is the City of Los Angeles implementing this program?

Rain water is a natural resource that can be harvested to supplement the existing potable water supply at residences throughout Los Angeles, and it is important that residents capture as much rain water as possible. Rain water that falls on the roofs of homes can be collected and conveyed through roof gutters and down spouts to a rain barrel. The collected water can then be used for watering plants or irrigating gardens.

What types of barrels are being distributed?

Residents will be receiving rain barrels, which are repurposed syrup barrels generously donated by *Coca-Cola*.

How much water can be collected in an average year?

The average home has a roof of approximately 1,000 square feet. The annual rainfall in Los Angeles is approximately 15 inches, although the City has experienced several years of decreased rainfall amounts. If the rainfall in a normal year could be harvested, it would amount to 9,600 gallons per home per year. The total amount of rain water runoff which could be collected and used for irrigation purposes at all homes in the City is approximately nine billion gallons annually.

Is a resident eligible to receive more than one rain barrel?

No. The goal for this pilot program is to engage as many residents as possible and limiting the number of rain barrels to one per property allows the program to reach the maximum number of people.

How will I benefit from this program?

The benefits may include a savings on your LADWP water bill, the conservation of potable water, a decrease in the potable water demand, a reduction in the amount of rain water runoff and the knowledge that you're doing your part to conserve water.

How much does the rain barrel weigh? How big is the rain barrel?

The empty rain barrel weighs approximately 15 lbs. The dimensions of the rain barrel are as follows: 39" high and 23" in diameter. Water weighs 8.3 lbs. per gallon. When the rain barrel is full, it will weigh approximately 400 lbs.

Can I have my rain barrel delivered to my home?

No. Residents are responsible for the transportation of their rain barrel to their own home.

How much rain water will my barrel collect?

The rain barrels that are being distributed through this program will be either 45 gallons or 55 gallons in size.

How do I maintain my rain barrel?

If the barrel is installed correctly, the maintenance of a rain barrel is simple. (1) Before a rain storm, be sure to remove the overflow drain cap and attach a hose to the overflow drain so that the water overflowing out of the rain barrel is diverted away from the foundation of your home. (2) During a rain storm, check to make sure the barrel is capturing rain correctly. Make adjustments, if necessary. (3) After and between rain storms, use the captured rain water to irrigate plants. You may want to consider removing the hose from the overflow drain and place the cap on the overflow drain. For more maintenance information, please consult the Every Drop Counts Rain Barrel Installation Instructions that you received with your rain barrel.

Can I receive a replacement if my rain barrel cracks or leaks?

Replacements will depend upon the inventory of rain barrels available. Please contact klab@lacity.org to inquire about a replacement barrel if you experience a problem with your rain barrel.

If I decide that I don't want the rain barrel, what do I do with it?

We encourage all residents to use their rain barrel to collect rain water. However, in the event that a resident chooses that the rain barrel will no longer work for their home, the City of Los Angeles' seven SAFE Centers will take the rain barrel. Please visit www.lacitysan.org for the location of the nearest SAFE Center.

How can I safely use the collected rain water? Can I drink the collected rain water?

No. Do not drink the collected rain water. The collected rain water is not potable water and should **never** be used for drinking, cooking, bathing, or washing purposes. The collected rain water should only be used to irrigate your property's plants, garden or yard.

Is there more I can do at my home to harvest rain water?

Yes! From creating a rain garden to installing permeable pavers, residents can adopt many different practices to harvest rain water or help rain water infiltrate into underground aquifers. For more information, please visit www.LAStormwater.org.

Who do I contact with any questions I may have regarding my rain barrel or this program?

Please e-mail the City of Los Angeles, Keep Los Angeles Beautiful at klab@lacity.org.

