

Rain Barrel: Rules, Guidelines and FAQ's



Service, Quality, Community

General

- You must be a City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power (BBLDWP) account holder to receive a rain barrel at no charge (one free rain barrel per customer).
- Rain barrels may only be installed on a BBLDWP service address. Rain barrels may not be moved to other properties outside the service area.
- The customer is solely responsible for the safe use, handling, installation, and maintenance of the rain barrel.
- The BBLDWP is not responsible for any damage to the rain barrel, property or any other liability or injury after the customer accepts the rain barrel
- The BBLDWP will not issue additional or replacement products to the customer, even if they are viewed as broken or defective. BBLDWP does not warrant that the rain barrels will function as advertised.
- BBLDWP must conduct a pre-inspection to ensure that the property meets all requirements for the program prior to the customer taking possession of any complimentary products.
 - Rain gutters and downspouts are required for a rain barrel. The rain barrel must be installed to utilize the downspout.
 - The rain barrel should be placed on a solid and level foundation, such as a concrete pad, pavers, or bricks for stability as they can weigh about 600 pounds when full.
 - Place the rain barrel on a raised foundation to accommodate a watering can and increase gravity flow.
- Once the rain barrel is installed, the customer must send BBLDWP a photo. Photos may be emailed, texted, mailed in or dropped off.

Installation

- Manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions must be followed.
- Consider securing your rain barrel with straps similar to hot water heater earthquake straps, or per manufacturer recommendations.
- For safety/emergency access the rain barrel must not block or restrict a walkway or path that provides access.
- The overflow pipe from the barrel must be directed away from buildings and/or adjacent properties and storm drains. Flow to landscape is preferred.
- The rain barrel lid must be secured for child safety, vector control (mosquito, rodent), and debris control.

Use

- No pumps of any kind may be used with rain barrels unless a backflow device is installed.
- The Rain barrel may only be used for rain capture.
- Rain barrel must not be connected to any potable water system, including irrigation. Water from the rain barrel must be distributed through a hose or bucket only.
- Captured water should never be used for human consumption.
- Mosquito dunks shall be used per package instructions and are to be replaced every 30 days and can be purchased locally.
- Rain barrels must be winterized per products care and use guide.

(Source for some of the above guidelines is www.sandiego.gov)

City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water - This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Rain Barrel Frequently Asked Questions



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FAQS from current supplier: Upcycle.com

How much rain does it take to fill a barrel?

This depends on the surface area that is draining into the barrel. A 1,000 square foot roof surface captures 625 gallons of water for every 1 inch of rain that falls. A 4' x 8' sheet of plywood that receives ¼" of rain will fill a 55 gallon barrel.

Why is there a screen in the lid?

The screen is to keep mosquitoes and other pests out while letting the water flow freely into the barrel.

Do I need to remove the fittings for winter?

You do not need to remove the fittings for winter. The company we get the barrels from says that they use plastic fittings because brass and steel do not interface well with plastic barrels. These items expand and contract at a different rate, which is the major cause of other manufacturer's barrels leaking in a short period of time. The only thing you need to do to prepare for the winter season is to drain all the water out of them, remove the linking fitting cap, and open the spigot.

Are your barrels new?

These are USED barrels. They will have some scuff marks and scratches from shipping and handling. The company we use inspects, cleans, and modifies each barrel. There are no significant scuffs or scratches which would harm the structural integrity of the barrel and lead to any leakage. The spigot is installed on the nicer looking face.

How are the lids held onto the barrel?

The lids screw on and hold the cap in place in some models. In others, the lids and screen are held on with a galvanized (won't rust) lock ring.

Why are there so many holes in the lids?

Multiple holes in the cap allow for the best collection of water.

Do you paint your barrels?

These barrels are not painted. The company we use offers a very inexpensive and no frills Rain Barrel. If you want to change or enhance the color of your barrel there are two products they recommend. The first is Ace Hardware brand spray paint, and the second is Krylon brand spray paint. Both purportedly do an excellent job on plastic and take years of use before they peel.

What kind of spigots and fittings do you use?

Acetal plastic spigot for the faucet and poly fittings for the linking and overflow hoses.

What is the purpose of the linking fitting?

The linking fitting allows the user to connect multiple barrels together for even more free water and the overflow fitting allows the homeowner to direct the additional water away from their home.

How much water pressure does a rain barrel have?

To water from your rain barrel you can use a garden hose or bucket. You will not be able to run a sprinkler or a soaker hose from the rain barrel.

Rain Barrel Application



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Please print clearly

Service address: _____
Street Number Street Name City

Customer name: _____

Homeowner name (if different): _____

Customer Phone number: _____

Customer Email: _____

Preferred contact method:

Phone

Email

Please initial, confirming that you have each of the following:

Rain gutters

Downspout

Solid, level and elevated foundation/structure on which to place the rain barrel

Please initial, confirming that the rain barrel

will not block or restrict a walkway or path

will not be attached to a pump of any kind

will not be used for human consumption

will not be connected to any potable water system, including irrigation

will be winterized to avoid damage

will have mosquito dunks placed at regular intervals

will not be removed from a BBLDWP serviced property

Waiver & Release of Liability Form



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I have read, understood and agree to abide by all Rules, Guidelines, and FAQ's as they relate to the rain barrel program. I accept any and all liability related to the use, handling, installation, and maintenance of the rain barrel. I acknowledge that the BBLDWP does not warrant a rain barrel for fitness for its intended use.

HEREBY ASSUME ALL OF THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE CITY OF BIG BEAR LAKE, DEPARTMENT OF WATER & POWER'S (BBLDWP) RAIN BARREL PROGRAM (PROGRAM), including by way of example and not limitation, any risks that may arise from negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities being released, or from dangerous or defective equipment or property owned, maintained, or controlled by them.

I acknowledge that this Waiver and Release of Liability Form will be used by BBLDWP, and that it will govern my actions and responsibilities while in possession of a rain barrel received from BBLDWP.

In consideration of my application and BBLDWP permitting me to receive a rain barrel, I hereby agree to the following on behalf of myself, my executors, administrators, successors, assigns and all who depend upon me:

(A) I WAIVE, RELEASE, AND DISCHARGE from any and all liability, including but not limited to, liability arising from the negligence or fault of the entities or persons released, for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft, or actions of any kind which may hereafter occur, THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES OR PERSONS: The City of Big Bear Lake, Department of Water & Power (BBLDWP) and/or their commissioners, officers, employees, volunteers, representatives, and agents, and the activity holders, sponsors, and volunteers;

(B) TO INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND DEFEND the released parties from any and all claims of liability resulting from or associated with participation in the program.

I acknowledge that BBLDWP and their commissioners, employees, volunteers, representatives, and agents are NOT responsible for the errors, omissions, acts, or failures to act of any party or entity conducting a specific activity on their behalf.

The Accident Waiver and Release of Liability Form shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT. I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL RULES, GUIDELINES, AND FAQ'S AS THEY RELATE TO THE RAIN BARREL PROGRAM. I ACCEPT ANY AND ALL LIABILITY RELATED TO THE USE, HANDLING, INSTALLATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE RAIN BARREL. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Participant's Signature

Date

Participant's Name (Please print legibly)

Physical Address

City

State

Zip Code