



Rainwater Harvesting Incentives Rebate Program

Most Requested Information (MRI)

Can a swimming pool be considered a cistern?

A swimming pool can be converted to a cistern, but can no longer be used as a swimming pool.

Can I qualify for a rebate if I am a renter and the apartment complex pays the water bill?

No, you must be a Tucson Water customer and multi-family is not considered residential.

Is the rebate available for the property I own if the renter is the water customer, but I (the owner) install the system?

Yes, the owner of the property can apply for the rebate.

Are builders who integrate rainwater harvesting into their homes eligible?

Yes, only if water service is in their name.

What if I already installed my rainwater harvesting system?

The rainwater harvesting system must be installed after September 27, 2011, and you must attend a qualified workshop to qualify for a rebate. This is the date that Mayor and Council authorized the program and financing.

Does the purchase of plants qualify for a rebate?

No, the rebate does not include landscaping materials.

Does the rainwater harvesting incentives rebate apply to new homes?

Yes

Is the cost of a drip system covered by the rebate?

No, the rebate does not cover irrigation systems.

Is there a rebate for the labor portion if I do the installation myself?

No, the rebate only covers expenditures for hiring a contractor who is licensed and insured.

Do rain barrels qualify for the rebate?

Yes, rain barrels qualify for level 2 of the rainwater harvesting incentives program. Tanks that are smaller than 800 gallons receive a rebate at \$0.25 per gallon capacity. A 50 gallon rain barrel will receive a rebate of \$12.50.

Does the rebate cover the installation of a new catchment area?

No, the rebate only covers gutter to convey the water to a tank or beneficial use.

If I have a contractor install the rainwater harvesting system, do I still need to attend a workshop?

Yes, the intent of the workshop is to educate the applicant on rainwater harvesting best management practices as well as aiding with the application process.

Are curb cuts/core drilling on public right-of-way covered by any elements of the rebate?

Yes, after July 1, 2015, the rebate covers 50 percent of the cost of permits and the curb cut/core drilling within the public right-of-way adjacent to the applicant's property under level 1. Water from curb cuts/core drilling cannot enter private property.

Does a commercial property qualify for a rebate?

Yes, after July 1, 2015, small commercial Tucson Water customers qualify. Small commercial is defined as a property with a single meter that is 5/8 or 3/4 inches. Properties with more than one meter or meters larger than 3/4 inches do not qualify.

What is covered in the rebate program?

Rainwater harvesting practices eligible for rebate include:

- passive earthwork features consisting of surface, sub-surface, and conveyance features
- french drains, pumice wicks, and gravel pave
- mulch, rocks/boulders for reinforcement (rock work) and soil amendments
- equipment rental such as tillers, jack hammers, and trenchers
- permits and costs for curb cuts and coring
- labor from licensed contractors (contractors must be licensed with the Arizona Registrar of Contractors in the particular trade or field for the type of work performed)
- Cost of an active system based on gallon per capacity of tank

What is not covered in the rebate program?

The rainwater incentive program will not cover costs for the following:

- imported soil to create passive rain garden practices – creation of passive features does not require additional soil; engineered permeable fill can be covered if site requires it to support subsurface storage
- purchase and delivery of gravel or decomposed granite (also known as DG or ¼ minus) as a surface cover; decomposed granite includes finer particles which may result in sealing soil surfaces especially in desired infiltration areas
- purchase or installation of landscaping materials such as plants, edging, decorative gravel, etc.
- purchase of tools such as shovels, rakes, drill bits, garden hoses, etc.
- taking down and replacing old gutter
- conveyance features which direct rainwater off-site without entering appropriately sized landscape retention feature or storage tank, e.g., gutter and downspout directed onto driveway and flows to street
- purchase or installation of irrigation systems
- purchase or installation of pressurizing pumps or associated controls; the incentive program is promoting lower cost, simple rainwater harvesting practices. Pumps are not prohibited, however, their associated costs will not be covered
- purchase or installation of reduced pressure backflow preventers, which are required for any site with a pump system for non-municipal, potable water distribution
- purchase or installation of open, used, or reconditioned tanks and cisterns
- labor completed by owner, neighbor, friend, or handyman

