



Sustaining Water

WITH YVSC

5



**KEY THINGS
to know about
rain barrels in
Colorado**

- 1** Yes, they are legal!
In 2016, rainwater harvesting became legal in Colorado.
- 2** You can have up to two rain barrels with a combined water holding capacity of up to 110-gallons.
- 3** Rain barrels can only be installed at residential properties that are single-family households or multi-family households with four or fewer units. It is also required that any collected rainwater be used on the property it was collected.
- 4** The container needs to have a fully sealable lid to prevent mosquito breeding.
- 5** Water collected in a rain barrel is for outdoor purposes only, including lawns, gardens, or plants. Never drink water from a rain barrel or let your pets drink it because it is unfiltered and can carry contaminants.



Water in the Yampa Valley is changing, so can we.

WHY USE RAIN BARRELS?

CONSERVES WATER

Outdoor watering of lawns, plants, and gardens accounts for 30% of water use in the City and District. Rain barrels reduce overall water use by providing access to harvested water.

SAVES ENERGY AND MONEY

Drinking water and wastewater systems account for about 2% of energy use in the U.S. Rain barrels replace the use of treated water outdoors with captured water, which saves energy and household water costs.

CAPTURES RUNOFF

Stormwater runoff collects pollutants from roads and impervious surfaces as it travels to waterways. Rain barrels capture stormwater runoff before it becomes contaminated and enable it to be used for outdoor purposes.



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YVSC.org/waterconservation

