

The Calgary area receives over 400 mm of precipitation each year on average, with 320 mm coming from rainfall.¹ For a bungalow of 1,300 square feet, that's over 39 cubic meters of rain each year (or almost 10,000 4L jugs of milk). Put another way, a 10' x 10' garden shed can collect 60 US gallons (227 L) of rainwater from a one-inch rain. Both the Town of Strathmore and the Sustainability Committee encourage Strathmore citizens to reuse that water by collecting it in rain barrels.

A rain barrel offers a number of benefits, including:

- keeping water out of the sewer system
- controlling moisture levels around your home's foundation
- providing ideal water to your plants and grass (rain water is oxygenated and unchlorinated)
- directing rain overflow to where you want it
- reducing your water and sewer bill
- conserving water in the summer months.²

Not only will a rain barrel save you money, it offers the best water for your lawn and garden and also conserves water when it's in greatest supply: the summer. Maintenance on a rain barrel is minimal and setup is easy. Rain barrels are available from a number of retailers and can also be purchased from the Town Office—a 50 gallon rain barrel costs just \$45 plus GST.

¹ The Weather Network.

<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/ca/api/sitewrapper/index?url=/statistics/caab0293>. Retrieved May 5, 2017.

² Reasons to have a rain barrel at home.

http://www.stroudcenter.org/education/projects/rain_barrels.shtm. Retrieved May 5, 2017.