

The Colorado Division of Water Resources said rainwater collection is allowed at residential properties under certain conditions.

Who can collect rainwater?

According to Colorado Revised Statute 37-96.5-103, rainwater can be collected at any single-family residence or multi-family residence with four or fewer units. Each home in a row of homes joined by common sidewalls, such as duplexes, triplexes, or townhomes, is considered a single-family residence.

What is permitted under the statute?

According to Colorado law, rainwater can be collected in a rain barrel, which is a storage container with a sealable lid. It must be located above the ground of a residential home and used for collecting precipitation from a downspout of a rooftop.

Here is what is and isn't permitted with it comes to collecting rainwater:

- No more than two rain barrels with a combined storage capacity of 110 gallons or less are allowed.
- The collected rainwater must be used for outdoor purposes, like irrigating your lawn or garden, filling your hot tub, or washing your car.
- You can't use the rainwater as drinking water or indoors for household purposes.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, drinking rainwater can be dangerous to drink.

Rainwater can carry bacteria, parasites, viruses, and chemicals that could make you sick if you consume it. It has also been linked to disease outbreaks, according to the CDC.