



## Rain Gutters Guidelines and Application

### What is the value of having gutters?

Rain Gutters are used on your home to divert rainwater away from your property in an effort to protect your roof and foundation from rainwater accumulation.

But did you know Rain Gutters are also used to divert rainwater into a green space, your landscape or rain barrel which can naturally filter out pollutants which may end up in our storm drains.

Without Rain Gutters, the runoff from your roof flows untreated into our public storm water system and eventually our ocean, bays and estuaries.



### How much water drains from a roof?

The amount of water that can be collected from a rooftop depends on several variables, including the dimensions of the rooftop, the collection capacity, and the amount and the timing of the rain received. Before applying, calculate the length and gutter capacity you need. Most homes use a 5-inch K-style gutter, where one foot holds 1.2 gallons of water. Remember, San Diego typically receives around **10 inches of rain annually**.

The rainwater catchment rule of thumb:

**1,000 square feet of roof surface captures 625 gallons of water for every 1 inch of rain that falls. That's approximately 6,250 gallons of rain water that can be captured for reuse on your property and diverted from our storm drains every year!**

Material Type	Amount per linear foot	Linear feet rebated	Maximum rebate amount
PVC	\$0.25	250'	\$62.50
Aluminum	\$1.25	250'	\$312.50
Steel	\$2.00	250'	\$500.00

## Application

1. **Take pre-installation photo:** Before installing gutters, take 1 clear photograph of each side of the roof, corner to corner, where the planned gutter will be installed. If there are existing gutters that will be replaced, include them in your picture and 1 clear photograph of each downspout or proposed downspout location and the area where the rainwater will be diverted to.
2. **Install the gutter:** Purchase and install gutters that meet the specifications set forth in the "Program Requirements & Parameters" section of these guidelines. Gutters purchased or installed before **December 1, 2018 do not qualify for a rebate.**
3. **Take post-installation photo:** After installing gutters, take at least 2 clear photographs of each side of your roof, showing all lengths of gutters and the area where rainwater is being diverted (include photos taken from at least 2 directions).
4. Complete the [Rain Gutter Rebate Application](#) and upload supporting documents.
  - ✓ All "before" and "after" installation photos (see Steps 1 and 3)
  - ✓ Paid invoices or sales receipts (must show price of each redirect, store name, purchase date, and payment method)
  - ✓ Redirects purchased before November 1, 2018 will not be rebated.
5. A [W-9](#) form must be submitted to the City to receive your rebate funds.

Please mail to:

City of San Diego Public Utilities Department  
Attn: Rain Harvesting Rebate Program  
525 B Street, Suite 300  
San Diego, CA 92101

Please be advised, emailing your W-9 form as an attachment is not a secured method.

## Guidelines

Rebates for new gutters are \$1.25 for every linear foot of aluminum gutter, \$2.00 for every linear foot of steel gutters and \$0.25 for every linear foot of PVC/vinyl/plastic gutter, up to 250 feet. Example: A 150 linear feet aluminum gutter rebate = \$187.50 (\$1.25 x 150 linear feet). If your HOA pays your water bill please have a board member sign your application as well. For HOA properties inquiring about purchasing for multiple units please see below under 'Other Important Information'.

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- Only the cost of the gutter is eligible for a rebate. Actual rebate amount will be calculated using supporting documents provided, cost of gutters, and available funding. Rebate will be the lower of the two: total eligible costs for the gutter or the stated maximum total dollar amount per customer rebate.
- City of San Diego Public Utilities Department residential customers served by an individual water meter may participate in the rebate program.
- Manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions must be followed.

- Gutters must be designed to redirect rainwater to a pervious landscape or rain barrel.
- Gutter rebates do not cover the cost of downspout redirect or rain barrels; applicants can separately apply for the [downspout redirection and/or rain barrel rebate](#) programs in addition to the gutter rebate.
- Gutter rebates do not cover the cost of hauling away old gutters.
- Copper materials (including downspouts) are not allowed due to potential leaching concerns.
- Diversion of water from gutters must be directed away from buildings and/or adjacent properties and may flow to landscape (preferred). Rain Barrels or retention basins are also acceptable.
- Gutters must be maintained for a minimum of 3 years upon receipt of rebate. Maintenance includes removing debris to ensure rainwater flow and repairing leaks when necessary.
- Participants must allow the City to reference the project in outreach materials and must respond to minimal requests for information about the project for purposes of program reporting.
- Customer must agree to and sign the application agreement before rebate is administered. A post-site inspection may be required.
- Rebate check will be sent to the customer of record approximately 6-8 weeks after application is deemed complete.

## Installation Recommendations

- Make sure that gutters are sloped properly so all rainwater will drain out.
- Consider using aluminum and galvanized gutters that last longer than PVC and can be recycled in the future if needed. If your house is near the ocean, galvanized gutters is preferred because aluminum gutters can corrode in the presence of salt.
- Consider recycling old metal gutters. Miramar landfill will accept metal gutters as "donation items."
- Consider using gutter guards to reduce leaves and other materials from clogging gutters.
- Consider using splash blocks and/or riprap rock areas underneath downspouts to redirect flows and prevent erosion in green spaces.
- Consider consulting with or hiring a rain gutter installer for proper installation.

## What does not qualify for the Gutter rebate?

- Fasteners, hangers, elbows, corner pieces, endcaps, downspouts, rain barrels, cisterns, splash rocks, riprap rocks and leaf guards
- Haul away and disposal fees of old gutters
- Gutters purchased prior to December 1, 2018.
- Labor, fuel or tools costs.
- Costs associated with fixtures or components used to install or secure gutters.
- Taxes, fees, or tariffs associated with the purchase of rebate-related device or work performed.

## Other Important Information

If you are an HOA seeking to purchase rain gutters for your community, the 250 linear feet maximum per detached single-family home or one per multi-family building applies, but we do require one application per community to be filled out. In addition to the photograph, receipt and application requirements, please submit an enclosure to your application listing the account numbers with addresses associated to each account number that you are requesting a rebate for. All other parameters and requirements above still apply to each address.

The payee's Social Security or Tax ID number must be provided via a completed [Form W-9](#) along with the rebate application paperwork to receive a rebate. The name on the W-9 must match the name on the rebate check. This form must be completed so that the City of San Diego rebate administrator, can properly complete Form 1099. This

is in compliance with exemptions to the Federal Privacy Act of 1974, 42 UCS 405 (c)(2)(c). The Internal Revenue Service requires program participants receiving \$600 or more in City funds to receive an IRS Form 1099 unless exemptions apply. Social Security numbers provided as part of the application process are held in confidence under terms of the Privacy Act and are not divulged or otherwise conveyed to individuals or organizations outside the Rebate Program.

Please consult with a tax advisor if you have questions regarding any potential tax implications of your rebate.

If you have questions after reading these guidelines, please call 619-533-4126 or e-mail [waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov](mailto:waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov). Include your project reference number if you have one.

Funding for a limited number of rebates is available through the City of San Diego, Public Utilities Department and Transportation and Storm Water Departments and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis until exhausted. This program is subject to change without prior notification.

Please visit [SoCalWaterSmart.com](http://SoCalWaterSmart.com) to determine if you are eligible for an additional rain barrel rebate.