Hey, what’s with the price increase?
Sorry...Due to the recent jump in fuel prices, shipping and manufacturing cost have gone up. Our vendor had to raise their price by a few dollars. But it is still a great price!

Why can’t I leave the barrel valve closed during the whole winter?
Your barrel(s) will likely fill up and overflow in 1-2 rainstorms. A 500 square foot section of your roof top will typically create 300 gallons of runoff in a 1 inch rainstorm. To protect our creeks and the stormdrains, leave the valve open during the winter when you don’t need the water. Near the end of March, close the valve and use the last rainstorms to quickly fill your barrels.

Can I use the water indoors?
In order for collected rain water to be used indoors, even for toilet flushing, the State and local code requires special filtering, plumbing, and permitting. Our Rain Barrel Program is intended for out-door non-potable uses only.

For the Participant Agreement, why must I be the owner of the property to get a rain barrel?
The rain barrel changes the way water is handled on the property, and if installed improperly, it could harm the building where it is installed and cause drainage problems to the surrounding area. The property owner is the only person who can take responsibility for installing the rain barrel in a safe manner.

Why must the rain barrel become part of the property and be included in real estate transactions?
The rain barrels must remain at the residence/property stated in user agreement to sustain the benefit to the landscape and watershed. The rain barrel is considered an upgrade to the stormwater management for the property.

Why must I agree to an inspection?
Federal and State stimulus funding rules require that the City of Oakland, as a grant recipient, be able to show that the money has been spent as specified in the grant (to provide inexpensive rain barrels to Oakland residents). Keep in mind, this standard agreement is also used for large, stimulus funded construction projects like bridge repair, water and sewer line repair. We would also like to get a chance to see your great work.
Do I have to maintain my rain barrel for 25 years?
Please maintain your barrel for as long as it is installed. Failure to maintain your rain capture system can cause drainage problems for your property and the surrounding area. Please protect yourself, your neighbors, and our common resources by maintaining the rain barrel for as long as it lasts.