



For Immediate Release

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The Alberta New Home Warranty Program
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Rain Barrels

July 4, 2005 - Calgary, Alberta -- The Alberta New Home Warranty Program applauds the initiative of conserving rain water to minimize taxing the municipal water supply. Done properly, rain barrels can be a great way to support the environment and reduce water and sewer costs. The use of rain barrels is on the rise, but there can be a number of pitfalls in using them. Annually, Alberta receives approximately 355 mm of rain between May and October. This rainfall onto the roof of a 2,000 sq. ft. home would produce over 167,200 litres of water. In some cases, The Alberta New Home Warranty Program has found that improper use of rain barrels has affected the structural integrity of homes due to excess water being introduced next to the foundation.

Here are some factors that should be taken into consideration when using a rain barrel:

- Ensure that the rain barrel is installed with a drainage pipe or release valve that is at least the same size as the downpipe installed on the home. This will ensure when the barrel is filled, that excess water is discharged into the barrel extension.
- Ensure that the drain extension from the rain barrel is not discharging water onto the neighbour's property.
- Ensure that the barrel extension is directed towards the drainage swale in your yard.
- Disconnect the rain barrel in winter months. Ensure that over the winter the reinstalled eavestrough extension directs water away from the foundation.
- Make sure the area around the rain barrel is properly sloped away from the home with a dense material such as clay to facilitate drainage.
- Do not tie several roof drains to one barrel.



**The Alberta
New Home
Warranty
Program**

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The Alberta New Home Warranty Program (the "Program") was the first warranty program incorporated in Canada. Founded and funded by Alberta builders in 1974 to provide warranty protections and to encourage improved performance standards for the new home building industry, the Program has in turn fostered a high regard for the home building profession. Builder Members of the Program offer deposit protection, builder performance protection, structural integrity and first year warranty protection to consumers as well as mediation, conciliation and arbitration procedures through a third party process. The Alberta New Home Warranty Program has over 700 Builder Members who are committed to the Business of Home Building.

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