



# RainWise Rebate Overview

Seattle  
Public  
Utilities

In order to meet stormwater permit requirements, Seattle is addressing CSO's (Combined Sewer Overflows) with a combination of traditional and green infrastructure. In target areas, qualifying properties may be eligible to receive a rebate of up to \$3.50 for each square foot of runoff controlled using a rain garden or cistern.

To qualify for the Residential RainWise Rebates:

- 1) Qualifying rain gardens or cisterns must be installed on properties within a target CSO basin. As of January 1, 2012, properties in the Ballard, Delridge, North Union Bay and Windermere Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) basins are eligible. Maps of eligible basins are posted at [www.rainwise.seattle.gov](http://www.rainwise.seattle.gov)
- 2) Work must be completed by a contractor licensed to do business in the state of Washington to be eligible. For information on licensing and hiring contractors, check the Labor and Industries website <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Contractors/HireCon/> or call 1-800-647-0982.
- 3) All RainWise design requirements must be met and verified by an SPU inspector.
- 4) Rebate applications must be received within 90 days after approval of the installation by a Seattle Public Utilities inspector .

## Steps to getting your starting your project and getting your rebate:

- 1) Verify that you live within an approved CSO basin area. Qualifying areas can be found at the RainWise Tools website at [www.rainwise.seattle.gov](http://www.rainwise.seattle.gov)
- 2) Contact a contractor via the RainWise Tools website. Contractors who have attended the SPU RainWise workshops are familiar with the requirements of the program.
- 3) Choose your contractor. They will make arrangements for a pre-construction inspection or will submit a Notice of RainWise Project form.
- 4) After the pre-construction inspection is approved or Notice of RainWise Project form is submitted, they may construct your rain garden or cistern.
- 5) Have the installation inspected by SPU upon completion.
- 6) Make sure your contractor shows you how to maintain your system or that you contract with them to maintain the system.
- 7) **Within 90 days of approval send your rebate package to:**

**Seattle Public Utilities**  
**Attn: RainWise Rebate Program**  
**700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 4900**  
**PO Box 34018**  
**Seattle, WA 98124-4018**

**Use the RainWise Rebate Checklist to insure your submission is complete.**

**It can be found at [www.seattle.gov/util/rainwise](http://www.seattle.gov/util/rainwise)**

*Don't forget to register your project on the RainWise website [www.rainwise.seattle.gov](http://www.rainwise.seattle.gov)  
Your address will not be shown, but will appear as a waterdrop on the map on the site.*





# RainWise Rebate Checklist

Print and return this form on the front of your rebate package

Seattle  
Public  
Utilities

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Site address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check that you have completed and included the following items in your submission.*

- The completed rebate form
- A copy of the approved pre-construction inspection sheet or Notice of RainWise Project
- A copy of the approved post-construction inspection sheet
- The itemized invoice from the contractor showing business name, address, license number and detailed costs of installation and materials. *Note: No rebate will exceed the total cost of the installation of the rain garden or cistern facilities.*
- A signed copy of the Homeowner Agreement with the city
- A contractor signed copy of the Rain Garden and/or Cistern warranty
- A signed copy of the Statement of Rain Garden and/or Cistern Function
- If you have installed a rain garden, a signed copy of the Infiltration Test and Certification
- If you have a rockery or wall, a signed copy of the Rockery Release Form

**Please verify the following items:**

- I have been shown how to maintain and operate my rain garden and/or cistern by my installer and know where to find additional information on the RainWise website [www.seattle.gov/util/rainwise](http://www.seattle.gov/util/rainwise)
- I have entered my project on the map on the RainWise website [www.rainwise.seattle.gov](http://www.rainwise.seattle.gov)





# RainWise Rebate Form



(Print and return this form)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Site address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

SPU Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Found on the top left of your bill. For help finding it, see

[http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Billing/Payment\\_Options/BillingOptions/TOURYOUR\\_200312011550333.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Billing/Payment_Options/BillingOptions/TOURYOUR_200312011550333.asp)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Type of installation

- Rain Garden                       Cistern overflowing to rain garden
- Cistern overflowing to conveyance channel       Cistern overflowing back to sewer

Size of facility : Cistern \_\_\_\_\_ gallons  
 Rain garden \_\_\_\_\_ square feet bottom area  
*Please note quantities and sizes of additional facilities below*

Roof area draining to facility: \_\_\_\_\_ square feet

Cost to install facility \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, I certify that I am the owner of the installation site, that the information I have provided is complete and accurate, that I will maintain and keep the installed system in good working order for a minimum of 5 years, and that I grant the city permission to conduct site inspections of my stormwater facility at times that are mutually acceptable to me and the City.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





# Homeowner Agreement

Seattle  
Public  
Utilities

This Agreement (Agreement) is made on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, by and between Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and \_\_\_\_\_(Homeowner).

This Agreement establishes the understanding between SPU and the Homeowner regarding the terms and conditions governing the Homeowner's participation in SPU's RainWise Rebate Pilot Project. Homeowner owns and occupies the real property located at \_\_\_\_\_, Seattle, Washington (Property).

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

In consideration of their mutual promises and commitments, SPU and Homeowner hereby mutually agree as follows:

1. Homeowner grants SPU permission to enter onto the Property, at reasonable times to be arranged in advance by mutual agreement, to:
  - a. evaluate whether the Property is an appropriate site for receiving a city rebate for a rain garden or cistern (System);
  - b. inspect the final installation to determine if the System meets program standards; and
  - c. monitor and evaluate the maintenance and performance of the System.
2. Homeowner is responsible for choosing an appropriate location with respect to utility conflicts and proper water conveyance to and from the System.
3. This Agreement is effective as of the date entered above and will expire five years after the date of final inspection sign off by SPU.
4. During the term of this Agreement, Homeowner will operate and maintain the System in accordance with the operation and maintenance procedures provided by SPU and exercise reasonable care to avoid interference with, damage to, or loss of function of the System. There shall be no further compensation to the Homeowner other than the promises and commitments made by SPU as part of the RainWise Rebate. Homeowner assumes the risk and agrees to hold harmless the City for any claim relating to the installation and operation of the System.
5. As part of the rebate program, Homeowner grants the City of Seattle the irrevocable right to use photographs of their RainWise installations in all forms and media.
6. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to require the Homeowner to alter or improve the Property or any access to the Property. Homeowner will provide prior written notice to and consult with SPU regarding any planned alterations to the Property that may affect System performance. (*Examples would include additions to the property that would affect roof drainage area or alterations to gutters or downspouts.*)

- 7. During the term of this Agreement, if the Homeowner lists the Property for sale, then the Homeowner will as soon as possible, but no later than three days after listing the Property for sale, provide written notice to SPU of Homeowner's intentions to sell the Property. Homeowner will make agents and buyers aware of this agreement via MLS Form 17, Seller's Disclosure Form.
- 8. All written notices or reports required under this Agreement shall be given by posting in first class mail as follows:

To SPU:       Seattle Public Utilities  
                   Real Estate Services  
                   700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 4900  
                   P.O. Box 34018  
                   Seattle, WA 98124-4018

To Homeowner: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- 9. SPU reserves the right to seek damages in the event the Homeowner should fail to fulfill the obligations set forth in this Agreement.

SPU and Homeowner have executed this Agreement in duplicate, effective on the date first written above.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
       Seattle Public Utilities

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
       Homeowner

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





# Statement of Rain Garden Function



In order to reduce excess stormwater flows to Lake Washington and Puget Sound, rain garden systems must be designed to meet or exceed Seattle Public Utilities standards and constructed so they cause no harm to you or your neighbors. While our inspector is able to check for minimum standards of primary importance to the city (such as sizing and appropriate setbacks), only you, the homeowner, lives with your new rain garden on a daily basis. That puts you in the best position to evaluate whether your system is functioning as designed. Your evaluation of system function via this document ensures that our ratepayers are getting the value of the service we are funding through the RainWise rebate program, and also ensures you have a functioning system before you make your final payment to your contractor.

***Please follow the instructions below, answer the question, and sign and return this document with your rebate package.***

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO EVALUATE AND CONFIRM TO SPU THAT YOUR SYSTEM IS FUNCTIONING PROPERLY.**

## Rain Garden Systems

### ***Ponding duration***

Observe your rain garden during and after rain events. During summer or extended dry periods, use a hose to fill your rain garden to its ponding depth (up to the level of the overflow). Ponding is normal in a rain garden, but in the absence of continuous rain the majority of your rain garden should drain over a 24 hour period after it stops raining.

### ***Overflow conveyance***

Observe your rain garden during large rain events, or use a hose to simulate flows. Ensure that water leaving the rain garden discharges to the approved discharge location and not your neighbor's property or your basement.

**If your rain garden does not function properly, notify both your contractor and Seattle Public Utilities.**

You may call 206-684-0100 or email [raingardeninspectionrequest@seattle.gov](mailto:raingardeninspectionrequest@seattle.gov)

Your contractor will work with you according to the terms of the RainWise warranty agreement to make sure your rain garden functions correctly. Seattle Public Utilities is not responsible for construction practices undertaken by the contractor that could cause the system to be nonfunctional. Examples would be failure to test for soil infiltration, over-compacting the soil, or allowing silts or other fine materials to contaminate the bio-retention soils which could impede proper draining of a rain garden.

### **Certification:**

I have observed my rain garden and its function, and assert that it drains within a 24 hour period and overflows to an approved discharge location.

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Printed Name

Signature

Date





# Statement of Cistern Function



In order to reduce excess stormwater flows to Lake Washington and Puget Sound, cistern systems must be designed to meet or exceed Seattle Public Utilities standards and constructed so they cause no harm to you or your neighbors. While our inspector is able to check for minimum standards of primary importance to the city (such as sizing and appropriate setbacks), only you, the homeowner, lives with your new cistern on a daily basis. That puts you in the best position to evaluate whether your system is functioning as designed. Your evaluation of system function via this document ensures that our ratepayers are getting the value of the service we are funding through the RainWise rebate program, and also ensures you have a functioning system before you make your final payment to your contractor.

**Please follow the instructions below, answer the question, and sign and return this document with your rebate package.**

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO EVALUATE AND CONFIRM TO SPU THAT YOUR SYSTEM IS FUNCTIONING PROPERLY.**

**Cistern Function**

Observe your cistern during and after rain events. During summer or extended dry periods, use a hose to fill your cistern up to the level of the overflow with the low flow orifice closed. Observe the overflow to ensure that water leaving the cistern discharges to the approved discharge location and not your neighbor's property or your basement.

**Lowflow orifice**

Open the low flow orifice on your cistern when it has water in it. Water should drain through the valve and to the overflow plumbing or an approved discharge point.

**Leaks**

Observe your cistern and plumbing. Your cistern should not leak.

**If your cistern does not function properly, notify both your contractor and Seattle Public Utilities.**

You may call 206-684-0100 or email [raingardeninspectionrequest@seattle.gov](mailto:raingardeninspectionrequest@seattle.gov)

Your contractor will work with you according to the terms of the RainWise warranty agreement to make sure your cistern functions correctly. Seattle Public Utilities is not responsible for construction practices undertaken by the contractor that could cause the system to be nonfunctional. Examples would be failure to build an adequate foundation, faulty plumbing connections, or misjudgment of terrain or pipe grades.

**Certification:**

I have observed my cistern and its function, and assert that it holds water, discharges over time through a low flow orifice, and overflows to an approved discharge location.

Printed Name

Signature

Date





# Rockery Release Form



Seattle Public Utilities RainWise program has developed design details for green stormwater infrastructure that provide for stormwater conveyance, detention, and infiltration which meet the goal of reducing combined stormwater overflows (CSOs) to Lake Washington and Puget Sound.

As part of this, we have developed siting and location details to limit these installations to sites where they will be suitable to perform their function, and also be safe for the installing and neighboring properties.

**If your rain garden or cistern installation is on a property with a wall or rockery, you must fill out and submit this form with your rebate package to be eligible to receive a RainWise rebate.**

**Design details and field engineering considerations concerning the installation of rain gardens and cisterns and their overflow conveyances take into account design function, public safety, and possible property damage.**

**However, walls and rockeries may be subject to failure when water is infiltrated behind them. Seattle Public Utilities and its employees (engineers and field inspectors) cannot know the construction methods, substrate and/or soils associated with a wall or rockery, nor predict the longevity of a wall or rockery. If you choose to install a rain garden or cistern behind a wall or rockery, you agree to assume the risk associated with that installation.**

I \_\_\_\_\_ property owner at  
Homeowner (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Address

Understand and agree to the following

- 1) I am aware that despite following SPU design guidelines for installation of rain gardens and cisterns behind a wall or rockery, that damage could occur to the wall or rockery. Damages may include, cracking, buckling, and partial or full collapse of the rockery structure, erosion through or around the wall or rockery, subsidence of retained soils, or other physical damage.
- 2) I have decided to install a rain garden or cistern behind a wall or rockery of my own free will, having been informed of such possible damages
- 3) I will hold harmless the City of Seattle for these modifications and their consequences and voluntarily assume all risk associated with the installation of a rain garden or cistern behind my wall or rockery.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Owner's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

