



Seattle
Public
Utilities



King County

Be RainWise

Manage your rain water at home

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear RainWise Contractors,

In compliance with WA state's Stay Safe Stay Healthy order, RainWise inspections that have been scheduled for the next two weeks will be cancelled and all RainWise inspections are paused until further notice. RainWise inspections are not regarded as an essential service and we urge you to protect our fellow citizens by following this direction at this time.

RainWise is a very important program to both King County and Seattle Public Utilities. The current directive will have no impact on program funding going forward and we will get back up to the speed as soon as we are able. Staff are working remotely and taking steps to ensure that rebate processing for RainWise projects that have already received a post-construction inspection can proceed.

The response to this pandemic will create monumental challenges for many small businesses throughout our state and nation. We will be collecting information that we hope can assist businesses get through this unprecedented time.

ECOSS has developed a Resource Hub that may be useful: ecoss.org/covid-19. If you have any information you would like to share with your fellow contractors, I would be happy to share it.

Tom Gannon, SPU RainWise Program Manager

Site Safety Plan

Health, safety and well-being is everyone's priority. We all have an important role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Social Distancing

Due to ongoing community transmission of COVID-19 all work groups need to implement social distancing. Social distancing means reducing contact with other people and sources of transmission (i.e. contaminated surfaces) to help slow the spread of infectious disease. Social distancing will be implemented differently by different work groups based on essential business need. Worksite specific social distancing strategies should focus on reducing the frequency, proximity, and duration of contact between people (both employees and customers) to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission.

The following are some suggested methods for field staff in proceeding with social distancing.

- ◆ Implement minimum 6 feet distancing from any people with symptoms of illness (i.e. coughing, fever). Stay home if you're sick!
- ◆ Implement social distancing of 6 feet, or as feasible, among non-symptomatic co-workers. Any amount of distance is better than none.
- ◆ Keep 6 ft distance when you have frequent interactions with general public. Use gloves and wash hands if frequent contact is required (i.e. customer transactions).
- ◆ Eliminate any unnecessary physical contact with customers or fellow employees
- ◆ Eliminate the need for morning team dispatch meetings- i.e. head directly out to vehicles, job sites and wait for assignments
- ◆ Stagger work shift start times so that staff who dispatch to field are not using locker rooms at same time.

Social Distancing (cont'd)

- ◆ Use alternate reporting locations or report directly to your vehicle at beginning and end of shift as feasible.
- ◆ Stagger use of shared facilities (i.e. kitchen space, touch down stations) and clean thoroughly before and after use including refrigerator and cabinet handles, sink facet handles, etc.
- ◆ Do not use others' assigned workstations, if they are used clean thoroughly with antiseptic wipes before and after use
- ◆ Disinfect shared workstations and shared vehicles before and after use with a disinfectant wipe.
- ◆ Convene meetings in alternative ways, whether be Skype, conference calls, or other digital tools.
- ◆ Any other strategies to reduce the frequency, proximity, and duration of contact between people should be implemented.

Environmental Cleaning & Disinfection

To reduce sources of contact transmission: Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, handles and doorknobs. Use the cleaning agents that are supplies by Logistics and follow the directions on the label. Surfaces should remain visibly wet for a minimum of 15 seconds to inactivate (i.e. kill) human coronavirus COVID-19.

- ◆ Vehicles & Equipment – Prior to using assigned or shared vehicles & equipment: wipe down door handles, steering wheels, gear shifters and knobs with a disinfectant wipe or spray disinfectant and wipe. Clean at both beginning and end of shift.
- ◆ Hand Tools – Wear work gloves when using or handling various hand tools.
- ◆ Computer Stations – Wipe the keyboard, mouse and surrounding area with a disinfectant wipe. If the station is a shared, wipe as described prior to each new user and after use.
- ◆ Radios & Cell Phones –Gently wipe surface with alcohol wipes or Clorox Disinfecting Wipes. Do not share if feasible.

Disinfecting Chemicals

All disinfection cleaning agents supplied by Logistics & Warehousing have been approved by Environmental & Safety for deactivation (ie. Killing) COVID-19. Check the product label for Human Coronavirus if you are unsure a product is effective.

- ◆ Disinfecting Wipes – Are made for disinfecting hard surfaces, wipe the surface and let it remain visibly wet for minimum 15 seconds, then let air dry. Wash hands after using chemicals or wear gloves while applying chemicals.
- ◆ Disinfectant Sprays – Do NOT use aerosol spray cans indoors (outdoor use and in well ventilated areas i.e. bathroom is ok). Trigger handle spray bottles ok for indoor use. Apply to surfaces and leave visibly wet for minimum 15 seconds before wiping up excess. Sprays can be used on soft surfaces like fabrics. For fabrics, apply lightly (do not saturate) and let air dry.

Continue to follow any additional guidance from Public Health -Seattle & King County, Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Updates and guidance will be provided as the situation evolves.

Contact Us

For general questions about the RainWise program: rainwise@seattle.gov To schedule a pre- or post-inspection: inspectionrequest@seattle.gov or call 206.615.0550.

For questions about an installation or a specific property, please contact your Seattle Public Utilities or King County RainWise inspector.

Helpful Links

US Chamber of Commerce: Resources to Help Your Small Business Survive the Coronavirus
uschamber.com/co/start/strategy/small-business-resources-for-surviving-coronavirus

Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19
osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf

Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers
cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html

5 things small-business owners can do to respond to coronavirus fears
usatoday.com/story/money/usaandmain/2020/03/11/5-things-small-business-coronavirus-fears/5014863002/

ASK AN INSPECTOR



Q

I recently installed multiple cisterns for a customer and some of the gutter downspouts are no longer in use. The customer doesn't want me to remove the downspouts. Do I have to take them out?

A

Yes. If you are by-passing downspouts to collect more of the roof into a cistern or rain garden, the downspout no longer in use needs to be removed, and the open joint between the gutter and removed downspout needs to be sealed. This is the best way to be certain the water within the gutter is traveling to the installation and that the rebate calculation is based on the correct roof area. Occasionally a customer may not like an aspect of our design standards. However, if they would like to receive the RainWise rebate, the standards must be followed.

A Note about Outreach Events...

All outreach events have been cancelled through April. We are going forward under the presumption that we will be able to go back to our regular outreach activities in May, and you can sign up for currently scheduled may events now. That, too, is subject to change. We do hope to provide additional webinars in place of in-person events, and we will notify contractors once we have a schedule.

Sign up at tinyurl.com/RWcontractor for May events.

VersiGrid: An Alternative Option for Cistern Bases

Are you looking for another cistern base option? Check out VersiGrid.

VersiGrid is a high-performing, permeable base that comes in interlocking, 1-foot squares that can attach and detach as needed. This creates an efficient method for building a base for rain tanks, and much more. The grid itself is strong enough to hold these heavy systems, but it can be filled with gravel or soil to add strength and improve the aesthetic. The product is sold for \$3.50 per square foot.

Rain Dog Designs is a local distributor. Contact David Hymel at (253) 389-2060.

Check out VersiGrid online at <https://versigrd.com>.