

Dear RainWise Contractors,

Welcome to the July edition of our RainWise Contractor Newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with important program updates and event announcements.

Included in this newsletter are the clarifications some of you have asked for on RainWise design details and the pre-inspection waiver. Also, please note that the Barton Basin is now closed to new customers, and King County's Montlake Basin is now open. Expect more customer calls from this central part of the City very soon.

Seattle Public Utilities and King County greatly appreciate the work you are doing to help us reduce sewer overflows and keep pollutants out of our waterways. Thank you!

Best regards,



Laura Cacho, Program Manager

Clarifying the 3 Foot Path Requirement

RainWise requires a 3 ft (36 in) path around cisterns and rain gardens in order to provide first responders with clear access to and around the perimeter of the building. Contractors are finding this standard to be a limitation when placing cisterns in side yards; it can affect rain garden placement as well. RainWise will also ask that some encroachments on the clear path, such as shrubs, be removed. Fire Code does not directly refer to cisterns, but the RainWise standard is based on the 36 inch egress or exit passageway standard.

RainWise is using public money to fund our work. We cannot risk one of our installations endangering a Seattle resident. While your client's neighbor may not have a fence on the property today, they might install one tomorrow. In this imperfect world where property lines are often unclear and neighborhoods are not static, the 36 inch path requirement is important to allow us some room for error while maintaining safe conditions.

Inspections and Roof Measurements

Gutters are included when measuring the roof. Be sure to measure the roof BEFORE your pre-inspection. If you are splitting the roof area into different features, you need to make the division of the roof (based on your site plan) clear to the inspector. If it is unclear, you and your inspector should discuss and mutually agree together on the dividing line of the roof.

Please note that inspectors will check your roof measurements, but they are not there to measure the roof for you. If your measurements are off by more than a foot, the inspector may cancel the inspection and ask you to reschedule.

The inspector's role is to make sure your project is viable. Be sure you use the limited time they have allocated to ask key questions about your project: overflow paths, capturing more roof area, better locations for cisterns, use of new cistern base or overflow path materials, etc. Using their time to measure the roof for the first time is not the purpose of the inspection.

ASK AN INSPECTOR

Q I have built a number of RainWise projects now and would like to start using the pre-inspection waiver. How do I get approval to do this?

A After you have successfully completed at least five projects, contact rainwise@seattle.gov with this request. RainWise inspectors will be asked whether you are ready to proceed without a pre-inspection. If they agree, you will be authorized to use the waiver.

Please keep in mind that the waiver should only be used for projects that easily meet RainWise design details. **You are proceeding at your own risk.** If the inspector does not think your project meets RainWise specifications at post-inspection, you will be asked to modify the project or your client will not receive the rebate. Schedule a pre-inspection if you have any questions about the project or if you are trying a new technique or material for the first time with RainWise.

Contact Us

- For general questions about the program: rainwise@seattle.gov
- To schedule a pre- or post-inspection: inspectionrequest@seattle.gov or call 206-684-0100
- For questions about an installation or a specific property, please contact your Seattle Public Utilities or King County RainWise inspector.

Want to Meet New Customers?

You are welcome to attend these events to meet new customers and grow your business!

To sign-up, contact organizer or visit:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4daaf2fa5fc1-rainwise>

July 12 at 6pm - 7:30pm: RainWise 101 Workshop
Seattle Public Library - Montlake Branch 2401 24th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112
Organizer: Susan Harper, 206-386-9139, susan.harper@seattle.gov

Aug 6 at 10am – 4pm: Seattle Tilth Harvest Fair
4649 Sunnyside Ave North, Seattle, WA 98103
Organizer: Susan Harper, 206-386-9139, susan.harper@seattle.gov

Aug 20 at 12pm – 6pm: Duwamish River Festival
Duwamish Waterway Park 7900 10th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98108
Organizer: ECOSS, 206-767-0432, info@ecoss.org

Aug 27 at 11am - 5pm: Sustainable Ballard Festival
Ballard Commons Park 5701 22nd Avenue Northwest, Seattle, WA 98107
Organizer: Susan Harper, 206-386-9139, susan.harper@seattle.gov



Welcome New Contractors!

Thank you to all who attended or sent staff to our May contractor training. Seven new contractors have joined RainWise, and a few others may be joining soon.

New contractors have a year to finish a RainWise project to remain part of the program. Get started today: attend one of our events, find an eligible friend or neighbor to work for, walk around an eligible basin and market your company, respond to our requests for contractors (check your email for these requests)! And remember, always return customer phone calls.

If you need anything to help you get started, let us know. We want you to be successful, and we are here to help!

If you no longer want to be part of the RainWise Program, please email rainwise@seattle.gov.

King County's Montlake/Capitol Hill Basin Is Now Open to RainWise

Approximately 8,000 properties south of the Montlake Bridge became eligible for RainWise rebates on June 1, 2016. This includes the Montlake, Capitol Hill and Central neighborhoods. The eligibility map on the website www.700milliongallons.org is now updated with the new area, and customers have been notified.

