



Seattle  
Public  
Utilities



King County

# Be RainWise

Manage your rain water at home

## Dear RainWise Contractors,

Hello RainWise Contractors!

Autumn is upon us and winter is fast approaching. that means it's RainWise season! My favorite time of year. This year, though, has been especially challenging for all of us. Our region and our country are going through some traumatic times. COVID-19 has presented special challenges that many of us are struggling to deal with. Everyone here at RainWise, all staff across all agencies and our entire team of outstanding consultants very much hope that this Newsletter finds you and your family healthy, happy, and safe. COVID-19 safety precautions are still in place and we do not foresee that changing anytime soon. Please review COVID-19 safety protocols regularly and please be sure to always follow those best practices for the safety of you, our inspectors, and our customers. Inspectors are still performing regular and consistent pre and post inspections. Always feel free to email us at [rainwise.seattle.gov](mailto:rainwise.seattle.gov) if you have any questions about any aspect of an installation.

We have revisited the idea of Virtual Pre-Inspections as a voluntary measure. If you are interested in doing virtual pre-inspections, please email me directly at [tom.gannon@seattle.gov](mailto:tom.gannon@seattle.gov).

*Tom Gannon, SPU RainWise Program Manager*

## New Cistern Supplier

RainWise will still be relying on our beloved usual supplier of cisterns, Bushman/Norwesco. However, we are going to try a new cistern supplier, Cypress Designs based in Bellingham. They are local and a very small company that we would love to support. The only size we will have available is a 205 gallon and if our contractors like them, we will sell more of them and, ideally, in different sizes and colors. Watch for an email from RainWise letting you know when they are available and how much they will cost.

## ASK AN INSPECTOR

**Q** I am a new contractor and will have my first post-inspection soon. Do you have any tips to help me pass this inspection the first time?

**A** It is often the little things that prevent a post-inspection from passing. Do a quality check of the work before the post- inspection with enough time to fix the problems you find. Don't wait until an hour before the inspection! Here are some things to look for:

- ◆ Be sure pipes are properly glued and horizontal lines are supported every 4 feet;
- ◆ Be sure downspouts are installed and side sewers are capped;
- ◆ Be sure to bury piping from downspouts to rain garden;
- ◆ Be overgenerous with rain garden soil. Make sure berms are compacted during the summer months.

## Contact Us

For general questions about the RainWise program: [rainwise@seattle.gov](mailto:rainwise@seattle.gov). To schedule a pre- or post-inspection: [inspectionrequest@seattle.gov](mailto: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.

## Cistern Supply

Cistern supply right now is good. Seattle Public Utilities have begun purchasing cisterns that will be sold through the Conservation Corps. The SPU inventory will be reserved largely, but not exclusively, for RainWise customers and contractors. While you may still purchase cisterns from the Conservation Corps through normal cash/charge transactions, those cisterns available from the SPU inventory can be taken by contractors and the cost then deducted from the rebate! This means that contractors no longer need lay out operating capital for cisterns and we will reconcile the charges when the rebate is paid. You can still arrange delivery for SPU cisterns through the Conservation Corps but the delivery fee must be paid directly to the Corps and cannot be deducted from the rebate though it can be charged though the rebate on the invoice. Naturally, we have yet to iron out all of the details as this is a pilot program but our goal is ensure a safe and secure supply of cisterns.

**Important!** If you are using the VPO (Vendor Payment Option), the rebate send to you will deduct the cost of the cistern. If the rebate is going to a customer, please tell them that the cost of the cistern will be deducted from the rebate. In addition, all cisterns received through the Corps from the RainWise stock must be itemized!

## Design Details

RainWise is embarking on an update to our Design Details. While the existing details are excellent, we felt we have learned a lot in the past several years that warrants revisiting the document. In addition to clarifying information around cisterns, valves, bases, raingarden construction and conveyance construction, we will also be working on a new set of design details for Big Roofs and institutional installations accessible by the public. Big Roofs are important to RainWise and are especially important to future GSI work in the city overall. As such, we will be creating new standards for them. Existing RainWise Design Details were created largely for single family residences and we are finding that these standards need to be adjusted for Big Roof projects; especially those that are accessible to the public.

I do not want to do this without input from our RainWise Contractors. Please consider this your invitation to submit recommendations that can help make the program better. I cannot, of course, guarantee that we will use them, but I will put them in front of our RainWise Team and our contracted and in-house engineers for their review. Please send your ideas to us at [rainwise@seattle.gov](mailto:rainwise@seattle.gov).

## Tasha's Tips

**Tired of mailing in rebate paperwork?** Now you can send in RainWise rebate paperwork directly to the rebate processing, Tasha Bassett. When you are ready to turn in a rebate, gather all the rebate documents and simply scan and fax them to (206) 470-6788. Don't have a scanner, no problem make a pdf all your documents and email them in directly to [Tasha.Bassett@seattle.gov](mailto:Tasha.Bassett@seattle.gov)

Please remember to make sure all documents are clear and readable, any documents that are unreadable will delay the rebate process.

Friendly reminder, when scheduling a pre or post inspection through the [inspectionrequest@seattle.gov](mailto:inspectionrequest@seattle.gov) please be sure to include your cell phone number should the inspector and or scheduler need to get in contact with you.

Want to Meet New Customers? Sign up at [tinyurl.com/RWcontractor](https://tinyurl.com/RWcontractor)

If you no longer want to be part of the RainWise Program, please email [rainwise@seattle.gov](mailto:rainwise@seattle.gov).