



Seattle  
Public  
Utilities



King County

# Be RainWise

Manage your rain water at home

## Dear RainWise Contractors,

Welcome to our resurrected Contractor Newsletter!

RainWise does not exist without our contractors. We value what you bring to the program and love to hear suggestions. Invite us to an installation. Ask for a meeting to discuss your issues. There's not always something we can do, but just tracking what is happening out in the field is a big help.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have questions about a code, a problem, a property or anything at all, please contact us. We are here to help you.

Best wishes for a rainy and productive fall,

*Tom Gannon, SPU RainWise Program Manager*

## Ongoing Maintenance for RainWise Customers

Early Fall is when many customers need landscape and cistern maintenance services. Right now several RainWise Contractors tell clients they can provide maintenance services on a monthly or quarterly basis, which is a great way to increase your business and keep your RainWise installations working great. RainWise will also promote your business as one that provides maintenance via our marketing materials. Let us know if you offer ongoing maintenance by emailing [rainwise@seattle.gov](mailto:rainwise@seattle.gov).

## Large Roof Calculator

The calculator on [700milliongallons.org/rainwise/contractor-resources](http://700milliongallons.org/rainwise/contractor-resources) is still your go-to calculator. However, if you are doing a large roof or a property with multiple cisterns and/or oddly sized or very large cisterns, we have a new calculator. If you are doing a large or complicated installation that may require enlarging the orifice size to maximize the rebate, send [tom.gannon@seattle.gov](mailto:tom.gannon@seattle.gov) an email and he will walk you through the new process, which is still in beta-testing.

## ASK AN INSPECTOR



The RainWise website says a property is only eligible for a cistern. My client really wants a rain garden. Is the website's ruling on eligibility always right?



RainWise team members have a mantra that we like to repeat when this question comes up: "Topography always trumps technology."

A field inspection is the best way to answer this question. If the property is not on a steep slope and it passes the infiltration test, a rain garden may be allowed by our inspectors. However, keep in mind that the opposite is also true: just because the website says a property is eligible for a rain garden does not mean it is appropriate. The technology cannot catch all field scenarios. No matter what the computer says, if it is obvious from the site's slope or other factors that an installation is inappropriate, don't build it.

## 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 206.684.5855.

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?

We hold multiple events each month to share the RainWise program with eligible residents. You are welcome to attend these events to meet new customers and grow your business! Visit [www.700milliongallons.org/events](http://www.700milliongallons.org/events) for more information.

October 12<sup>th</sup> 11am – 1pm Meet-A-Contractor Fair

## City People's Garden Store

2939 E Madison St, Seattle, WA 98112

Sign-up: [tinyurl.com/RWcontractor](http://tinyurl.com/RWcontractor)

October 26<sup>th</sup> 10am – 11:30am RainWise Workshop

## Swansons Nursery

9701 15th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98117

Sign-up: [tinyurl.com/RWcontractor](http://tinyurl.com/RWcontractor)

# New Contractor Orientation

November 12<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

6 - 8:30pm

SSC Georgetown Campus  
Room 110/111 of the Gene J. Colin  
Education Hall  
6737 Corson Ave S, Seattle

November 16<sup>th</sup>

10am – 12pm

Site TBD

Do you know someone who wants to be a RainWise contractor? Invite them to attend the next **free** RainWise contractor orientation! Registration is required. Please visit

[rainwisecontractor.bpt.me](http://rainwisecontractor.bpt.me)

to register.



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

# Useful Resources for Contractors

## RainWise Contractor Resources:

[700milliongallons.org/rainwise/contractor-resources](http://700milliongallons.org/rainwise/contractor-resources)

## SPU's Development Services Office online GIS page:

[seattle.gov/utilities/construction-and-development/dso](http://seattle.gov/utilities/construction-and-development/dso)

Check out the "Water and Sewer Research Map". It's a great way to see if a property has any on site detention that could impact its eligibility.

## Seattle DC&I: Permit & Property Records:

[web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/](http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/)

Here you can see if there are any permits or requirements issued for properties regarding mandatory on-site detention that could affect a property's eligibility for RainWise. Enter the address and the permits will show up. This is much more accurate than sewer cards which are not updated regularly.

# Construction Built after 1979 Might Be Eligible For RainWise

There was a blanket policy for structures built after 1979 indicating that they do not qualify for RainWise. This is no longer true. Even though stormwater code was initiated around this time, there was an inconsistent application of the requirements to new construction. We found that after 2004, all homes have code-required detention. However, you still need to do your homework! Using the above resources, take a look and see if there is any code-required detention on site. If you still have questions, email [rainwise@seattle.gov](mailto:rainwise@seattle.gov) and [tom.gannon@seattle.gov](mailto:tom.gannon@seattle.gov). RainWise can provide a definitive answer that will protect you and your customer.