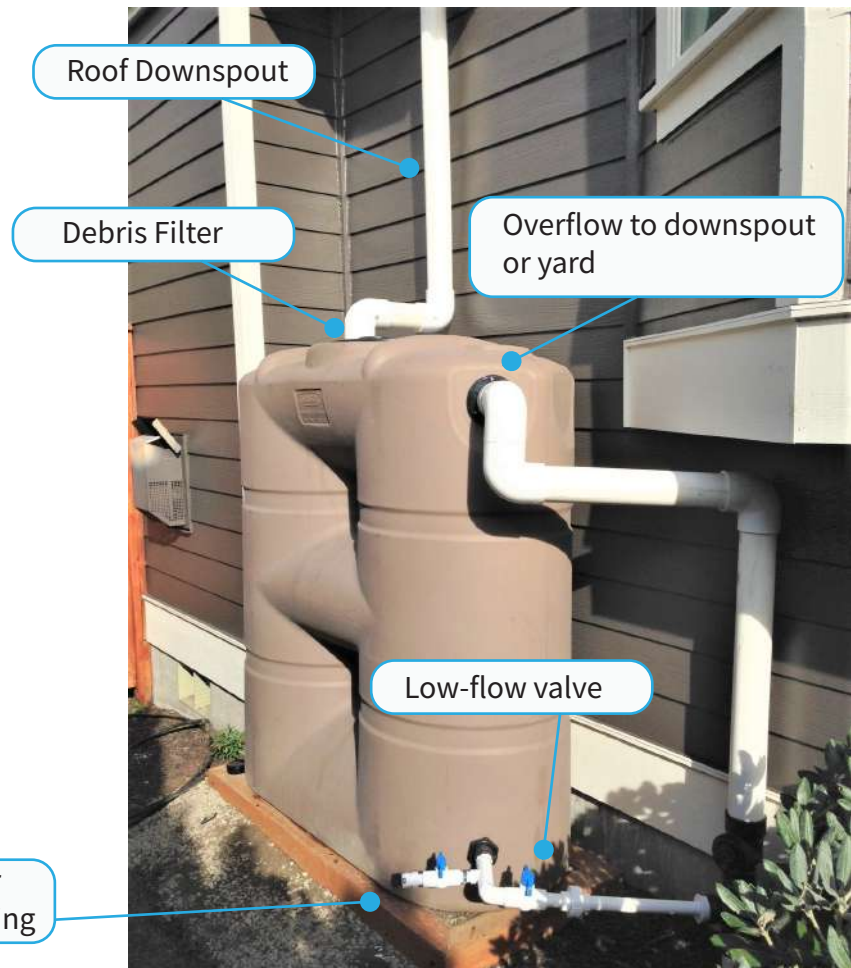


CISTERN MAINTENANCE

What is a Cistern?

A **cistern** is a large rain barrel that collects hundreds to thousands of gallons of water. Cisterns can help slow the flow of rainwater that floods our neighborhoods and creeks, and provide you with water to irrigate your lawn and garden in summer.

Cisterns are made of durable materials like metal, heavy plastic, or fiberglass. They fill with water from your roof, gutters, and downspouts.



Who is Responsible for Maintenance?

Property owners in Kirkland are required to maintain their cisterns to help prevent clogging and allow rainwater to flow slowly to your landscape or downspout.

Maintenance also extends the lifespan of your cistern and helps prevent flooding elsewhere on your property.

Below: Keeping roof gutters clean will help prevent clogging and keep your cistern functioning.



See reverse side for maintenance information.

CISTERN MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance extends the lifespan of your cistern and helps prevent flooding elsewhere on your property.

Every Summer

- ✓ When cistern is empty, spray down inside of cistern to remove sediment and algae.
- ✓ Check the entire system (gutters, filters, overflow pipe, fittings, spigot, etc) to ensure cistern is functioning properly. Clear any blockages from the system.

Every September

- ✓ Open the low-flow valve to let rain slowly flow into your landscape or downspout.



Every May

- ✓ Close the low-flow valve to collect water for irrigation. Connect a hose to the spigot to use the water stored in your cistern.



As Needed

- ✓ Clear leaves and tree debris from roof gutters and cistern screen to prevent clogging.
- ✓ Drain cistern and pipes before freezing temperatures to prevent damage.



Caution

- ✗ Do not let the cistern foundation become unlevel or unstable.

Troubleshooting

PROBLEM

- ! Cistern is overflowing.

CAUSE

Cistern is full before a rain event or there may be a blockage in the cistern outlet.

SOLUTION

- Leave low-flow valve open in fall and winter.
- Drain cistern between rain events.
- Clear blockages from outlet.

- ! Cistern is leaning.

Cistern foundation has shifted.

Level the foundation and cistern.



For more information visit
www.kirklandwa.gov/DrainageInspection