

# YARD SMART RAIN REWARDS

## CISTERNS

### What?

A cistern is a large rain barrel that collects hundreds to thousands of gallons of water. Made of durable materials like metal, heavy plastic, or fiberglass, cisterns fill with water from your roof, gutters, and downspouts.





### Why?

Every time it rains, water carries pollutants from our roofs, driveways, patios, and lawns, into the nearest storm drain, and into Forbes Creek and Lake Washington. During big storms, the amount of rainwater runoff can cause neighborhood flooding and erosion hazards.

**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 each summer!**

### Eligibility

-  **Roof area.** Cisterns must drain a minimum roof area of 400 square feet.
-  **Capacity.** Cisterns must have a minimum capacity of 200 gallons.

### Benefits



**Easy to Maintain.** Cisterns need simple maintenance 1-2 times each year.



**Collects Water.** Cisterns collect extra water that's free to use for your garden and lawn each summer.



**Soaks In.** Cisterns allow excess water to slowly release and soak into the ground, reducing flooding and preventing pollution from entering Forbes Creek.



## Be Yard Smart, Get Rain Rewards Rebates!

**For Single-Family Homes:**

75% of Project Costs up to **\$3,000** for work done by contractors.

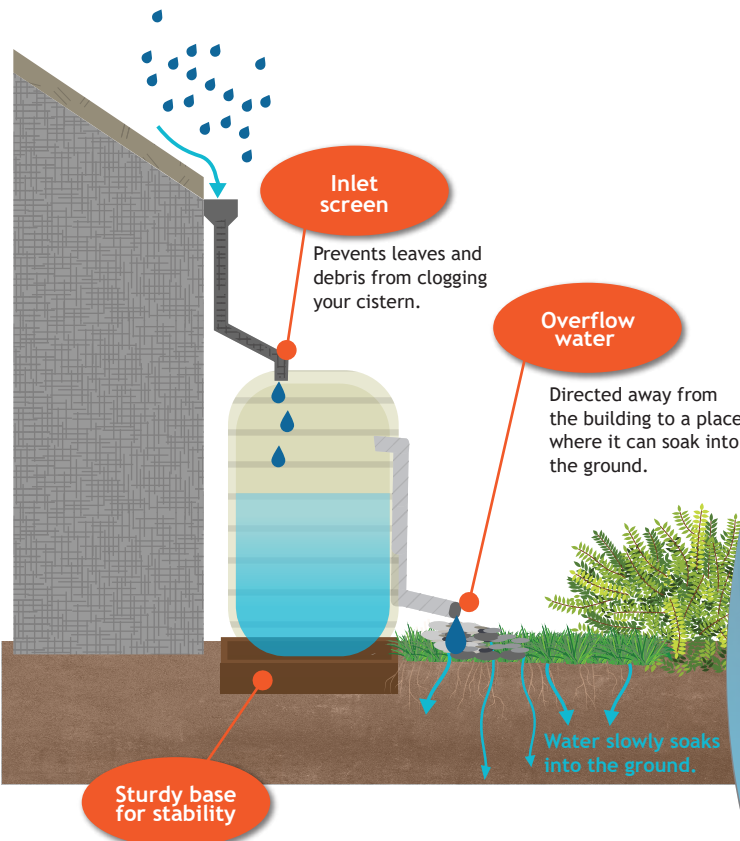
100% of Project Costs up to **\$3,000** for DIY projects.

**For Multi-Family Homes & Commercial Properties:**

75% of Project Costs up to **\$6,000**






# How do Cisterns work?



Cisterns have a drain valve that you can open or close. In the winter months, keep the drain valve open to allow heavy rains to fill the cistern and slowly drain out over time. In mid-May, close the drain valve so your cistern fills with water to be used for summer landscape irrigation.

## Considerations

-  Cistern overflow should be a minimum of 4 feet away from building foundations and overflow to your landscape, rain garden, or back to the downspout.
-  Full cisterns can weigh thousands of pounds. Careful placement and a sturdy foundation will keep your cistern safe and secure.
-  A dark colored tank and shaded location will limit algae growth, reduce maintenance needs, and extend the lifespan of your cistern.

## Steps

- 1. Project Design**  
Decide how big of a cistern you need. Decide on cistern placement and overflow options. You can do this yourself or with the help of a contractor.
- 2. Review & Approval**  
Complete a project approval form. City of Kirkland staff will approve or suggest changes to your plan within 2 weeks.
- 3. Construction & Installation**  
Hiring a contractor? Consider getting 3 bids. Whether DIY or through a contractor, save all itemized receipts and proofs of payment.
- 4. Final Review**  
Once your Cistern is installed, contact us for a final inspection.
- 5. Get Your Rebate**  
Fill out our Project Rebate Form, W-9, and Maintenance Agreement. Get Your Rebate Check!
- 6. Maintain Your New Cistern**  
Clean your tank each year by hosing out and brushing. Clean your gutters and check your cistern screen at least once a year.

## Learn More

- Online** [kirklandwa.gov/yardsmart](http://kirklandwa.gov/yardsmart)
- Email** [yardsmart@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:yardsmart@kirklandwa.gov)
- Phone** (425) 587 - 3857



This project is supported by funds from the King Conservation District Member Jurisdiction Grant Program.