

CARING FOR YOUR CISTERN

Cisterns need seasonal maintenance to ensure that they continue to function properly.



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- ☐ Inspect your entire cistern system (cistern, gutters, pipes, fittings, etc.) to ensure it is functioning properly.
- ☐ Clean your cistern
 - › Drain all water and sediment from your cistern.
 - › Spray water down inside of cistern to remove built-up algae and sediment.
- ☐ Clear any blockages in your valve system and replace parts as needed.

SEPTEMBER

- ☐ **Open the low-flow valve**
 - › Open the valve to allow cistern to slowly drain to your landscape or downspout.
 - › Leave the valve open through the winter.



SEPTEMBER-MAY

- ☐ Check screen, spigot and valves weekly.
- ☐ Remove leaves and other debris from the screen at the top of the cistern and the overflow pipe to allow water to flow freely.
- ☐ Be sure to inspect and clean roof gutters.



CISTERN SCREEN



CLOSED VALVE



MAY

- ☐ **Close the low-flow valve**
 - › Close the valve to save water for your yard.
 - › Use the water you have collected in your cistern to irrigate your landscaping.

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Kirkland Public Works -
Surface Water Division

www.kirklandwa.gov/stormwater



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