



## What you can do to manage rainwater sustainably:

### Looking to resurface your driveway?

- ◆ Consider permeable paving options

### Starting a landscaping project?

- ◆ Consider a rain garden

### Have a large garden and a big water bill in the summer?

- ◆ A cistern could help reduce your water costs

### Have a small yard but would like to collect some rainwater?

- ◆ A rain barrel might be a good fit.

## Rainwater Rewards

75% of all properties in Victoria are low density residential (1–4 units), so what we all do at home makes a difference.

Rainwater Rewards have been designed to encourage property owners to consider rainwater management methods when undertaking other improvements.

Rainwater Rewards for low density residential properties have two parts:

- ◆ **One-time Rebates:** Help with the upfront installation costs and are the focus of the Rainwater Rewards program for low density residential properties.
- ◆ **Annual Credits:** If you have installed one or more rainwater management method, you can apply for 10% off your annual stormwater utility bill.

If you have already installed rainwater management methods, you can apply for annual credits, but not rebates.

## Applying for Rainwater Rewards

### Doing work on your property?

Find out if a rainwater management method will work for your property:

- ◆ Visit [victoria.ca/stormwater](http://victoria.ca/stormwater) to learn more. Try using the Rainwater Management Planning Tool to map out your options.
- ◆ View the checklist to determine if the “Do-it-Yourself” approach is appropriate for your property.
- ◆ Talk to a professional if desired or required.

### Ready to Move Forward?

- ◆ Work with the City’s stormwater specialist and/or your professional to develop a plan that will qualify for the Rainwater Rewards program.
- ◆ Submit the site plan to City Hall for pre-approval.
- ◆ Once approval is received, work can start.
- ◆ The stormwater specialist can help coordinate any required inspections.
- ◆ Once work is complete and final approval has been granted, the credit will be applied to your account and a rebate cheque will be sent to you.
- ◆ Sit back and enjoy the rain!

### Thank you for helping us steward the rain that falls in Victoria each year!

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the process, please contact the stormwater specialist:

250.361.0443 or [stormwater@victoria.ca](mailto:stormwater@victoria.ca)



# Rainwater Rewards For Your Home



## Learn:

- ◆ About the benefits of rainwater management: rain gardens, rain barrels, cisterns, permeable paving and more.
- ◆ How to manage rainwater more sustainably on your property.
- ◆ How to apply for Rainwater Rewards:
  - Rebates: to help with upfront installation costs.
  - Credits: on-going reductions off your annual stormwater utility bill.



## Why manage rainwater?

Rainwater management is about reintroducing the natural water cycle into our urban environment.

We can all slow and clean the run-off from our homes by helping the rain soak into our soil, just like it does in natural landscapes.

Managing rainwater more sustainably will assist in reducing flooding. It will also clean the stormwater, helping to clean and preserve our waterways and beaches.

# Consider these approved rainwater management methods.



## Rain Barrels

A rain barrel is a specialized container, connected to the downspout from a building.

**Sizing:** Minimum 350 litres (smaller units can be combined)

**Approximate Cost:** \$350

**Rebate:** \$35 – \$100

**Credit:** Not available

**Ease of Installation:** Easy

**What it does:** Collection and use of rainwater

## Cisterns

Cisterns or holding tanks collect rainwater and are larger than rain barrels. They can be elevated, placed at ground level or buried underground. The non-potable water can be used for irrigation or to flush toilets.



**Sizing:** Minimum 1,200 litres, must treat 25 m<sup>2</sup> (270 sq. ft.) of roof

**Approximate Cost:** from \$1,200

**Rebate:** \$180 – \$600

**Credit:** 10% off annual stormwater utility bill

**Ease of Installation:** Moderate

**What it does:** Collection and use of rainwater

## Rain Gardens

A rain garden is a shallow depression that uses soil and plants to manage run-off from roofs, roads and driveways. You can improve the look of your home and help slow and clean runoff by incorporating rain gardens into your yard.



**Sizing:** Must treat at least 25 m<sup>2</sup> (270 sq. ft.) of roof or other hard surfaces

**Approximate Cost:** From \$1,000

**Rebate:** \$375 – \$1,000

**Credit:** 10% off annual stormwater utility bill

**Ease of Installation:** Moderate

**What it does:** Slows, cleans and absorbs stormwater

## Infiltration Chambers

Infiltration chambers are underground tanks or pipes with small holes that are designed to slowly release water through the ground and into the water table over time.



**Sizing:** Must treat at least 25 m<sup>2</sup> (270 sq. ft.) of roof or other hard surfaces

**Approximate Cost:** From \$2,000

**Rebate:** \$375 – \$1,000

**Credit:** 10% off annual stormwater utility bill

**Ease of Installation:** Moderate/Difficult

**What it does:** Slows, cleans and absorbs stormwater



## Permeable Paving

Permeable paving can be used instead of asphalt or concrete for sidewalks, driveways, patios or parking areas. It can improve water quality by slowing runoff and filtering out pollutants that would otherwise enter our local waterways.

### Permeable Paving – Without an underdrain

**Sizing:** Minimum 10 m<sup>2</sup> (110 sq. ft.) of permeable paving

**Approximate Cost:** From \$3,000

**Rebate:** \$200 – \$750

**Credit:** 10% off annual stormwater utility bill

**Ease of Installation:** Moderate/Difficult

**What it does:** Slows, cleans and absorbs stormwater

### Permeable Paving – With an underdrain

Installing an underdrain enables your permeable paving to treat additional runoff from your roof or other hard areas. Piping and an infiltration trench are required.

**Sizing:** Must treat runoff from at least 25 m<sup>2</sup> (270 sq. ft.) of roof or other hard surfaces.

**Approximate Cost:** From \$5,000

**Rebate:** \$750 – \$1,500

**Credit:** 10% off annual stormwater utility bill

**Ease of Installation:** Difficult

**What it does:** Slows, cleans and absorbs stormwater



## Bioswales

Bioswales are sloped channels that function like rain gardens. They also convey water across a site. They must be completed by a professional.

**Sizing:** Must treat at least 25 m<sup>2</sup> (270 sq. ft.) of roof

**Approximate Cost:** From \$1,500

**Rebate:** \$375 – \$1,000

**Credit:** 10% off annual stormwater utility bill

**Ease of Installation:** Moderate/Difficult

**What it does:** Slows, cleans, redirects and absorbs stormwater

## Do-It-Yourself

The City has developed “DIY” standards for low density homes with 1–4 units. They take you through the steps of planning, installing and maintaining a rainwater management method. The standards are available on the website and must be followed if applying for Rainwater Rewards.

To see if your project is suitable for “DIY”, please review the short checklist at [victoria.ca/stormwater](http://victoria.ca/stormwater). If preferred or required, you can work with a professional.