Be RainWise rebates for rain gardens & cisterns

www.rainwise.seattle.gov

Seattle Public Utilities

King County

RainWise Program guidance for Seattle Side Sewer Permit requirements

Background

A side sewer permit may be required when RainWise contractors are working on a side sewer. This includes new installations, alterations, repairs, pipe abandonment, relocations, removals, and temporary groundwater removal work (usually for large projects). This includes both sanitary and drainage lines.

The RainWise Program puts the sole responsibility on the Rain Wise contractor to abide and comply with all Side Sewer permit processes and requirements.

Side sewer permit fees vary based on the scope of work. The RainWise Program puts the sole responsibility on the RainWise contractor to remain up to date on these fees. For more information on the Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections (SDCI) Side Sewer Permit, including how to apply, visit: https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/permits/permits-we-issue-(a-z)/side-sewer-permit.

To determine potential impacts to your project and for more information on the side sewer code, visit: https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/codes-we-enforce-(a-z)/side-sewer-code.

Contact sidesewerinfo@seattle.gov or call (206) 684-5362 with questions.

In accordance with the SDCI Side Sewer Permit requirements, The RainWise Program will expect that side sewer permits have been obtained by RainWise Contractors, and a side sewer permit has been completed and approved by SDCI, when the following situations have occurred or is in question:

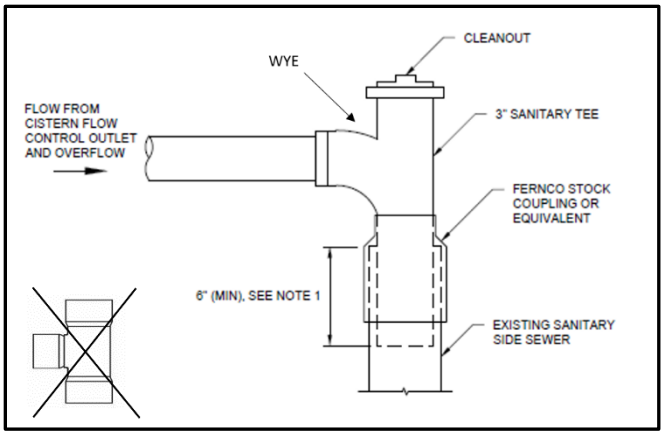
1. The side sewer connection is new
2. If the side sewer inlet is moved (any direction, any distance)
3. If the project will result in an increase to the total impervious area (i.e. roof area) than was previously draining to the parcel's side sewer.
4. If while conducting a site assessment with the homeowner you determine the side sewer is backed up, broken or damaged and YOU plan to repair the damage
5. If a side sewer must be re-routed or modified in any other way

For questions or comments regarding this guidance document please contact rainwise@seattle.gov.

RainWise Inspector role

The following outlines the expectations of the RainWise Program regarding inspections to side sewer connections and permitting. While RainWise inspectors are not specifically held responsible for enforcing all municipal codes, RainWise inspectors are in the right to deny rebate eligibility if a project knowingly violates a municipal code.

- To identify when a side sewer permit is needed and indicate that in the pre-inspection.
- To inspect the connection from the cistern to the side sewer, no further.
- To ensure the proper slope on the discharge pipe is at least 1% towards the side sewer. The slope cannot be flat and cannot be sloped towards the cistern so that water won't retain in the pipe and freeze in winter months. There may be some difference in slope requirements between the RainWise program and the Side Sewer permit requirements.
- RainWise Inspectors may request to see the pipe before it is buried or ask the contractor to supply photos of the pipe before it is buried with a level placed on the pipe for confirming accurate slope requirements.
- An inspector may request the permit number at the time of post-inspection, if deemed necessary.
- To ensure the drainage pipe is connected to the side sewer with a wye (see below diagram)



A side sewer permit may not be required for connections that are just a few inches below grade (ground level), such as those covered by mulch or leaves. RainWise Inspector will have sole and complete discretion on determination of a few inches during pre-inspection and/or post inspection. Each site will be reviewed on a site-by-site basis.

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