



ABOUT RAIN GARDEN INSTALLATIONS

A rain garden is a type of landscaped stormwater facility that temporarily collects, absorbs, and filters stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces including roofs, driveways, patios and other compacted surfaces such as gravelled areas.

DO YOU NEED A PERMIT FOR YOUR RAIN GARDEN?

Typically NO, but if your project involves any of the following you may need a permit and should consult with city staff:

- The total proposed drainage area is more than 2,000 sq. ft.;
- The rain garden is located closer than 50 ft. from a slope of 10% or more;
- The rain garden or disturbance area is more than 5,000 sq. ft. in size;
- The rain garden flows into or discharges to a critical area or buffer, or is within 100 ft. of a critical area or buffer;
- The soil test(s) indicate a drainage rate of 0.6 inches per hour or less;
- Removal of a significant tree or trees;
- More than 50 cubic yards of grading (earth movement) is proposed; or
- There is an associated land use or development / construction permit.

IMPORTANT DESIGN INFORMATION

Even though a permit may not be needed, all designs are required to comply with the current *Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington* and the Brier Municipal Code. Some particular considerations include:

Planning

- o Call 811 to request utility location markings, and contact the city to check if a side sewer as-built is on file.
- o Complete soil testing, preferably in winter and in multiple locations. Soils in Brier tend to have a high clay content and many areas of the city have a high water table.
- o Brier is located in Region 3 of the *Rain Garden Handbook*.

Location

- o Minimum 10 ft. away from any public right-of-way or structure;
- o Minimum 7 ft. away from any side or rear property line;
- o Minimum 5 ft. away from any underground utility easement or utility line (e.g. sewer, gas, water, telecommunications);
- o Outside any overhead electrical transmission line easement; and
- o Outside any critical area or its buffer.

Overflow

- o Overflow should be rock-lined and the flow path should be a minimum of 25 ft. long to ensure safe dispersion.
- o Flow path cannot extend onto a neighboring property. Flow paths also cannot extend into the public right-of-way or into a critical area or buffer without permit review and approval.

Maintenance

- o Maintenance, liability, and downstream damage from an improperly constructed or maintained rain garden is the sole responsibility of the property owner.

RAIN GARDEN RESOURCES

- Design Standards: [Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington](#)
- Requirements and Definitions: [Brier Municipal Code Chapter 14.04](#)
- Contractor List: [Washington Stormwater Center Provider Directory](#)
- Additional Resources: [Washington State University Extension Rain Garden Program](#)