



City of Alexandria, Virginia
Transportation & Environmental Services, Stormwater Management Division
Self-Certification Guide for Residential Rain Barrel

Introduction

Residential stormwater practices, such as permeable pavement and rain gardens, help to reduce stormwater pollution that runs off impervious areas.

Functioning stormwater or landscaping practices may be eligible for a partial stormwater utility fee reduction under the City's Stormwater Fee Credit Policy. For more information regarding the credit policy, please refer to the [Stormwater Utility Fee Credit Manual](#).

The Purpose of This Guide

This guide is intended to be used to inspect a residential stormwater practice that has already been installed on a single-family or townhouse lot. Inspecting your stormwater management practice identifies maintenance, repairs, or replacement as needed. Performing routine inspection and maintenance is required for practices to continue to function.

This guide does not replace any existing inspection requirements for stormwater management BMPs installed as a mandatory condition of development and covered by a maintenance agreement with the property owner.

About Self-Certification

For residential townhome and single family property owners applying for stormwater utility fee credits, a self-certification stating that you have inspected your stormwater practice and observe it to be in fully functioning condition is required at the time of application. During the City's review of your application, you may be asked to complete this guide and provide it to the City.

Instructions

Step 1. Complete this guide during your annual inspection.

Step 2. If asked to provide this form, it may be sent via email to stormwater@alexandriava.gov or mailed to:

Transportation and Environmental Services
Stormwater Division
2900-B Business Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22314



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Rain Barrel

Rain barrels capture roof runoff which can then slowly empty runoff into the surrounding landscape or reuse it for watering outdoor plants and lawns. Rain barrel water should not be used for cooking or drinking.

Certification Checklist

Check the box to confirm that each item was inspected and that the practice is in functioning condition and eligible for Stormwater Utility Fee Credits:

- The rain barrel is free of any structural damage**

Check the outside of the rain barrel for dents, cracking, or other imperfections that can lead to leaks. Check on the condition of mosquito nets or screens for tears.

- The rain barrel is free of leaks**

Check for signs of water leaking through the rain barrel. Water marks or streaks may be evident.

- The screen is free of leaves and debris**

While the screen is effective at keeping mosquitos out, the screen may also prevent stormwater from entering the rain barrel if it is clogged.

- The gutter and downspout are free of debris**

The gutter and downspout should be cleared of leaves and debris every spring and fall to keep water flowing to your rain barrel and protect your home from roof leaks and water damage.

- Stored water is regularly used**

Water stored in the rain barrel should be drained soon after a rain to leave capacity for the next rain. Before the first winter freeze, disconnect and drain the rain barrel.

Owner Information

Property Address: _____

Owner Name: _____