



## 2026 Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Information

Rainwater harvesting reduces stress on local aquifers and rivers by reducing extraction from aquifers and rivers in dry summer months, leaving more water available for communities and environmental needs. Reducing groundwater extractions can also help reduce salt water intrusion in coastal areas.

### TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO A REBATE:

- Must be a residential landowner within the RDN, including electoral areas (A, B, C, E, F, G, H) and member municipalities (Nanaimo, Lantzville, Parksville, Qualicum Beach).
- Must install a cistern that is rated for potable use (i.e. CSA or NSF approved) with 4,546 litres (1,000 imperial gallons) or more of storage volume. Systems can be for potable or non-potable (i.e. garden) use.
- If the installation involves the alteration of indoor plumbing, the installation of a new potable water line, or the alteration of an existing potable water line a Building Permit is required and a copy of the Building Permit and Inspection Document from the relevant Building Inspection Department must be submitted. RDN staff members approving the rebate are not responsible for ensuring the proper installation of any indoor components. Property owners assume full responsibility for ensuring that they are complying with all necessary regulatory framework.
- Must have a minimum roof collection area of 18.58 square meters (200 square feet).
- Each private property is eligible for one (1) rebate over the lifetime of the program.
- All work, including purchasing of system components and cistern(s), must be completed between January 1 and December 15, 2026.

**REBATE AMOUNT:** The RDN will rebate up to \$700 for eligible rainwater cistern(s) and up to \$300 for other eligible expenses (i.e. transport piping, debris trap/filter, installation costs, plumbing inspection fee, etc.), for a total of up to \$1000.

**PRE-APPROVAL AND CLAIMS:** A limited number of rebates are available; funds are available on a first-come first-served basis. Apply for pre-approval to “reserve” funds for eligible work for up to 90 days. Claims must be received by December 15, 2026. The RDN reserves the right to inspect or verify properties prior to pre-approval. Any property that receives the rebate may be subject to onsite inspection, verification, or follow up contact by the RDN.

CATEGORY	REBATE	DESCRIPTION
4,546 L or more rainwater cistern	\$700 Maximum	<b>Installation of a new cistern on an existing or new rainwater harvesting system</b> Generally, cisterns of 4,546 litres (1,000 imperial gallons) or more can collect a supply of water that will sufficiently decrease demand on our shared groundwater resources during the long summer dry periods. Install or have your system installed following the Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook ( <a href="http://www.rdn.bc.ca/rainwater-harvesting-incentive-program">http://www.rdn.bc.ca/rainwater-harvesting-incentive-program</a> ).
Other eligible expenses	\$300 maximum	<b>Components necessary for installation of a rainwater harvesting system</b> Additional funds are available for items that support the installation of a new rainwater harvesting cistern. Other eligible expenses include costs associated with transporting rainwater from the collection area (roof) to the cistern, overflow diversion and backflow prevention, filters and debris traps, labour of installation/site preparation, etc. Distribution components (beyond the tank) are not covered under the rebate.  Costs associated with the Tank Installation Checklist and Tank Safety Checklist (on the Claim Form) can be applied to this category.

## HOW THE REBATE WORKS

<b>STEP 1</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SUBMIT PRE-APPROVAL APPLICATION</b> Forms are available at <a href="http://www.rdn.bc.ca/rainwater">www.rdn.bc.ca/rainwater</a> . Submit your pre-approval by:  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:waterstewardship@rdn.bc.ca">waterstewardship@rdn.bc.ca</a>  <b>Mail or in person:</b> Attn: Drinking Water & Watershed Protection, Regional District of Nanaimo, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2  Include with your pre-approval: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Completed Rainwater Harvesting Pre-approval Application form.</li> <li>2) Before photos*, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Collection area (i.e. garage roof), and</li> <li>ii) Cistern location.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><i>*Submitted photos need to have some indication of scale (i.e. include person or measure stick) and relative position to compare before and after (i.e. part of your home in the photos).</i></p> <p>Upon pre-approval, the RDN will notify you that funds are reserved for your eligible work for up to 90 days.</p>
<b>OPTIONAL</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>ATTEND A FREE RAINWATER HARVESTING WORKSHOP (if offered)</b> Visit <a href="http://www.TeamWaterSmart.ca">www.TeamWaterSmart.ca</a> for workshop date(s) and registration information.
<b>STEP 2</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>COMPLETION OF QUALIFYING WORK</b> Applicants can complete installation or hire a rainwater harvesting professional to install. The completed system must meet the current best practices; see the RDN Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guidebook for details ( <a href="http://www.rdn.bc.ca/rainwater-harvesting">www.rdn.bc.ca/rainwater-harvesting</a> ). The Claim Form highlights required system components in the Tank Installation Checklist and Tank Safety Checklist.
<b>STEP 3</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SUBMIT YOUR CLAIM FORM</b> Forms are available at <a href="http://www.rdn.bc.ca/rainwater-harvesting">www.rdn.bc.ca/rainwater-harvesting</a> . Submit your claim by:  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:waterstewardship@rdn.bc.ca">waterstewardship@rdn.bc.ca</a>  <b>Mail or in person:</b> Attn: Drinking Water & Watershed Protection, Regional District of Nanaimo, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2  Include with your claim: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Completed Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Claim Form.</li> <li>2) Receipt(s) and/or invoice(s) marked PAID, including DATE and ITEMIZED purchase details.</li> <li>3) Photos clearly showing the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Added cisterns;</li> <li>ii) An appropriate collection area including downspout and routing to cistern;</li> <li>iii) Overflow diversion according to Tank Installation Checklist specifications;</li> <li>iv) Cleaning access; and</li> <li>v) Backflow prevention (if connected to top-up source).</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Allow 6 weeks for payment.</p>
Visit <a href="http://www.RDNrebates.ca">www.RDNrebates.ca</a> to see other rebates available from the RDN	