

# What is the credit program?

Customers who take measures to reduce the stormwater rate or volume flowing from their properties to the Richmond stormwater system and surrounding water bodies can receive a reduction in their stormwater fee.

Credits can be obtained by:

- Installation and continuing use, operation and maintenance of an approved Stormwater Control Measure (SCM) the City of Richmond does not own, maintain or operate, or
- Activities that reduce or alleviate the City's cost of providing a stormwater management program.



## Stormwater FAQ's

### 1. How do I apply for a stormwater residential credit?

Applicants must complete a one-page **General Application** and a two-page **Single Family Residential Property Credit Application** - both found in the Single Family Residential Property Credit manual and include a photo of their Stormwater Control Measure.

### 2. What Stormwater Control Measures qualify for residential credit?

Up to 50 % reduction is offered for a combination of any of the following SCMs:

**Rain Gardens** are landscaped areas built in a depression and designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff from a roof or other impervious (paved) surface.

**Vegetated Filter Strips** are uniform strips of dense turf, meadow grasses, trees or other vegetation with a minimum slope and can treat runoff from roof downspouts.

**On-Site Stormwater Storage** includes rain barrels, cisterns, or other stormwater storage devices approved by the Department of Public Utilities.

**Pervious Pavement** may include concrete blocks, grid pavers, or pervious concrete or asphalt with a stone reservoir underneath. The reservoir temporarily stores surface runoff before infiltrating it into the soil below.



### 3. How much can I save for installing a approved Stormwater Control Measure (SCM)?

You can earn up to 50% credit by combining any of the following SCMs:

- Rain Garden — 20%
- On Site stormwater storage — 20%
- Pervious pavement — 20%
- Vegetated filter strips — 20%



### 4. Can I install more than one SCM?

Yes. You earn up to 50% credit towards your stormwater bill by installing multiple

SCMs.

### 5. What documentation do I have to submit with my application?

Applications must be submitted with all required documentation, including **photographs**, to the Department of Public Utilities as described on each application.

### 6. What happens if my application is denied?

Following the receipt of a complete application, DPU will provide a complete review and the applicant will be notified in writing when an application is approved or denied. If an application is denied, the applicant can appeal based on the appeals procedures in Chapter 106 of the City of Richmond administrative code.

## Stormwater FAQ's continued

### 7. How long will it take before I know if I have a credit?

It should take no more than 60 days from receipt of a complete application to notification of an approved credit.

### 8. What maintenance will be required for my SCM?

SMCs installed on a property must be maintained to ensure continued function. Recommendations for rain gardens can be found in the Virginia Department of Forestry Rain Gardens Technical Guide. Information for other types of SCMs can be found at <http://www.vwrrc.vt.edu/swc/nonProprietaryBMPs.html>.



### 9. Does this process require a home visit or inspection by a DPU representative?

The rain garden, vegetated filter strip and pervious pavers will require a home visit and inspection. The city will require a photo of the rain barrel.

### 10. Water runs straight through my gravel driveway. Is it eligible for a stormwater credit?

No. Once gravel is compacted from cars and other vehicles, surface water runs off of it much like a paved surface. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation design specifications do not include gravel as pervious material. For more information go to: [http://www.vwrrc.vt.edu/swc/april\\_22\\_2010\\_update/DCR\\_BMP\\_Spec\\_No\\_7\\_PERMEABLE\\_PAVEMENT\\_Final\\_Draft\\_v1-7\\_03082010.pdf](http://www.vwrrc.vt.edu/swc/april_22_2010_update/DCR_BMP_Spec_No_7_PERMEABLE_PAVEMENT_Final_Draft_v1-7_03082010.pdf)

### 11. My property never floods. Will I still have to pay a stormwater fee?

All property located in the City of Richmond will be required to pay the stormwater fee regardless if a drainage concern exists on that specific property. Even if there is not flooding on the property, the stormwater that flows off the property must be managed so that it does not contribute to flooding in areas downstream.

### 12. Am I eligible for a credit if I use eco-friendly products such as "slow release" fertilizer?

No. Using slow release fertilizer is a good idea and will benefit both the environment and your garden. However, there are no residential stormwater credits available for lawn care products.

### 13. Do the residential credits begin this year in 2011?

If a residential credit is approved by June 2011 then the credit will be retroactive for the 2010 fee.

### 14. Do I have to re-apply for the credit every year?

No. The credit is valid for three years. The property owner must submit the renewal application to continue to receive the credit.

### 14. Where can I purchase rain barrels, pervious pavers, or cisterns?

Visit your local hardware and garden centers for these items. Some items can also be found on the internet.

### 15. How can I find out additional information regarding stormwater residential credits?

The City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities has a Single Family Residential Property Credit manual including reference material. Visit [www.richmondgov/dpu](http://www.richmondgov/dpu) for additional information.

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**PUBLIC**  
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