

# RIVERSMART HOMES

## What is RiverSmart Homes?

RiverSmart Homes is a District-wide program offering incentives to homeowners to reduce stormwater runoff from their properties. Homeowners receive a stormwater audit which determines their financial and technical assistance to install one or more of the following features: rain barrels, shade trees, rain gardens, BayScaping (native planting), permeable pavement and re-vegetation. This program is housed in the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE).

## Stormwater Runoff and the District of Columbia

Stormwater runoff is rainwater that flows off impervious surfaces (rooftops, parking lots, patios, etc.) to streams, picking up pollutants such as debris, chemicals, oils, lawn fertilizer, and bacteria from pet waste from roadways and driveways.

## Benefits of RiverSmart Homes

To the homeowner

- Beautify your property
- Save on your utility bills
- Reduce time and resources devoted to lawn care

To the District

- Improves the quality of local streams and waterways
- Helps minimize use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer
- Stabilizes soils to prevent erosion

## Want to become a RiverSmart Homeowner?

1. Apply by calling (202) 535-2252 or by completing an online application at [doee.dc.gov/service/get-riversmart](https://doee.dc.gov/service/get-riversmart)
2. Have a site audit conducted to assess what features are appropriate for your property
3. Let DOEE know what features from your audit you want installed
4. Work with DOEE partners to have your features installed
5. Maintain and enjoy your features



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Am I eligible for the RiverSmart Homes program?

If you own a home in the District, either as a resident or as a landlord, you are eligible to participate. Some homes that have already participated in the program may not be eligible for additional funding.

### Is becoming a RiverSmart Home going to cost me money?

Homeowners make a co-payment for each of the following RiverSmart Homes features installed on their properties (DOEE subsidizes the rest of the cost). The co-payments are as follows:

- Rain barrels = \$50 or \$70 per rain barrel, depending on rain barrel type (limit two)
- Shade trees = \$50 per shade tree (no limit)
- Rain gardens = \$75 per 50 sq. ft. of rain garden (limit two)
- BayScaping = \$100 per 120 sq. ft. of BayScaping (limit two)

DOEE provides \$10/sq. ft. rebate for removing and replacing impervious surface with permeable pavement and/or a \$5/sq. ft. rebate for removing and replacing impervious surface with vegetation.

### How and when do I make a co-payment for my RiverSmart Home feature?

Homeowners make co-payments directly to the contractor installing their RiverSmart Home feature. The timeline for these co-payments will vary by feature.

### How long does it take to become a RiverSmart Home?

After an audit of your property (see below for audit details) is completed, contractors should complete work on your property within six to eight months.

### What is the process of becoming a RiverSmart Homes?

- 1) **Apply.** Complete an application online at [doee.dc.gov/service/get-riversmart](https://doee.dc.gov/service/get-riversmart) or call DOEE at (202) 535-2252. Filling out an application will add you to a waiting list for a site audit. The wait time for an audit varies depending on the time of year.
- 2) **Have a site audit conducted.** DOEE will conduct audits to assess which features are appropriate for your property. You must be present at the property during the audit, which takes approximately one hour to complete. Two to three weeks following the audit, you will receive the auditor's report, which will recommend features for your property.
- 3) **Let DOEE know what items from the audit you want installed.** After reviewing the report, contact your auditor to let them know what features you would like to have installed. DOEE will pass your request to the nonprofit or contractor who will coordinate your installation.
- 4) **Have features installed.** The nonprofit or contractor will contact you to arrange your installation. The time at which your co-payment is due will vary depending on the installation.
- 5) **Maintain and enjoy your feature.** After a feature is installed, it is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain it. Information about maintenance is provided at the time of installation and is available online at [doee.dc.gov/service/riversmart-homes](https://doee.dc.gov/service/riversmart-homes).

