

Rainwater Tanks Rebate Scheme

Around 55,000 litres of water could be collected from a 100 square metre roof area and used to supply part of your household's water needs.

A Waterwise Rebate of up to \$500 is available for the purchase and installation of new tanks for domestic use.

Tanks with a capacity greater than 600 litres that are not plumbed in are eligible for a rebate of \$50. Tanks with a capacity greater than 2,000 litres are eligible for a rebate of up to \$500 or 50% of the purchase and plumbing in cost (whichever is the lesser amount) if they are plumbed in by a licensed plumber for use in your toilet and/or washing machine when installed.

Tank Capacity	Rebate
600 litres or greater unplumbed	\$50
2,000 litres or greater and plumbed in for toilet and/or washing machine use	\$500 up to 50%

Please contact the Department of Health on (08) 9222 4222 for guidelines on using rainwater tanks and a copy of its publication "Urban Rainwater Collection" prior to installation.

The rebate is available for one rainwater tank per household to a maximum of \$500.

The information on this page is taken directly from the Water Corporation's web-site.

The current Rebate scheme is due to finish on the 30th June 2007. It is likely that it will be extended.

1 JULY 2006 - 30 JUNE 2007

Rebate Form – for Showerheads, Washing Machines and Rainwater Tanks.

Rebates for Domestic Showerheads, Washing Machines and Rainwater Tanks Only.

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name _____

Telephone _____

Property address where item is installed _____

Postal address (if different) _____

Name to appear on the rebate cheque _____

Item purchased

(PLEASE TICK) No.

Showerhead

Washing Machine

Rainwater Tank

Place of purchase _____

Purchase price _____

Information required for Washing Machine Rebate.

Copy of original tax invoice showing payment made in full and stating make and model no. of washing machine included (PLEASE TICK)

Information required for Showerhead Rebate.

Where 3A must supply;

Barcode No. _____ provided

(PLEASE TICK)

Where 3 Star must supply;

WELS Licence No. _____ provided

(PLEASE TICK)

Details and copies of tax invoices are required to process your rebate.

Information for Rainwater Tank Rebate.

Size of tank as shown on original tax invoice _____ Litres

Copy of tax invoice included

(PLEASE TICK)

Copies of tax invoices are required to process your rebate.

Has the rainwater tank been connected

to the toilet and / or the washing machine by a licensed plumber? Yes No

If yes, please provide copy of tax invoice

(PLEASE TICK)

and Plumber Licence No. _____

Details and copies of tax invoices are required to process your rebate.

Please sign below and send completed form together with copies of all tax invoices to:

Water Corporation
Waterwise Rebate
Locked Bag 2
OSBORNE PARK DC WA 6916.

For further information on the Waterwise Rebate Program, or for additional forms call the Water Corporation on 1300 133 646.

I have read the Terms and Conditions on the back of this brochure.

(Signature Required)

Terms and conditions apply to the Waterwise Rebate Program and can be found on the back pages of this brochure. Please read these carefully before purchasing products and applying for your rebate.

Commonwealth releases report on urban water

Wednesday, 22 November 2006

A comprehensive review of Australia's urban water situation, designed to stimulate debate and drive best practice water management, was released today by Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister with responsibility for water, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP.

The report, prepared by financial and economic consultants Marsden Jacob Associates for the Office of Water Resources, outlines the state of water supplies in our major cities.

It shows how in the face of climate uncertainty, water conservation and restrictions are no longer enough to cope with changes in future water supply shortfalls. To cater for drought years water service providers must construct more capacity in their systems than needed in non-drought years. Water planning needs to take account of climate change.

It shows inadequate investment in water infrastructure by state governments, to cope with increasing demand, despite the strong financial position of their water utilities.

Launching the review Mr Turnbull said the commissioning of the report was part of the Commonwealth Government's strategy to drive policy change and improve water management through enhanced understanding of Australia's water resource and planning.

"The report reveals of all major cities only Perth has made plans based on recent climate experience," Mr Turnbull said. "This has seen Perth make at least double the per capita capital investment of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. Our cities should not be on permanent water restrictions due to poor planning based on outdated forecasts."

The review reveals how location affects the cost and benefits of water supply options, and suggests all supply methods, including rural-urban trade, desalination, and recycling be properly considered.

"There is no single silver bullet water supply solution," Mr Turnbull said. "The best chance of water security is through diversity of supply. All supply options should be on the table."

The report outlines the need for better, more consistent water pricing to reflect the marginal cost of additional means of supply. It also canvasses the potential role of the private sector and water entitlements in the urban setting. Key recommendations of the report are consistent with National Water Initiative priorities and recognise the triple bottom line of economic, social and environmental feasibility of investments.

"I commend the report to anyone interested in the future of urban water supplies - whether in metropolitan Sydney or in rural townships," Mr Turnbull said. "This report should be compulsory reading for water planners and government funding agencies alike."

The report is available through Mr Turnbull's website and on the Office of Water Resources website.

[emphasis added]

Rainwater Tanks and Their Uses

Your tank's requirements are best decided by a professional. There are a number of devices that can be fitted to ensure that your water is filtered adequately. Most retrofitted rainwater tanks are designed to collect water for the garden, flush toilets and wash clothes.

If you are installing a rainwater tank you'll need to decide on the size, material, filtration devices and other requirements.

Whether you want to maintain a lush garden, supplement your home's water supply or fulfil BASIX requirements, you may have thought about installing a water tank. But there are a number of factors that will determine the type of tank you take home. We answer your most commonly asked questions.

The environmental benefits of saving water are pretty obvious, but the process of selecting and installing a rainwater tank can be baffling. The guide below will help you determine the right tank but due to the many variables involved we still strongly advise you talk to a professional who can ascertain your individual requirements.

How do water tanks work?

Regardless of the size of your tank, the basic principle of water collection (or water harvesting) is the same. Put simply, the rain that falls onto your roof is caught by the guttering, channelled along the downpipe and filtered into your tank where it is collected for later use.

Can I have a tank?

With the number of compact domestic water tanks on the market now, it is unlikely that a small roof area will prevent you from owning a small tank. However every council has different regulations. It is worth ringing them anyway to ask if installing a rainwater system will make you eligible for a rebate on your water rates.

What can I use the water for?

Most retrofitted rainwater tanks are designed to collect water for the garden, flush toilets and wash clothes. More complex systems can be connected to provide "potable water" - that is, water fit for drinking and cooking with.

Is my roof suitable for water collection?

Most roof surfaces are safe for rainwater collection. Steel roofs such as Colorbond and Zinalume are ideal, but concrete and terracotta tiles are suitable as well. *Roofs painted with lead-based paints should never be used for the collection of rainwater. Tar-based roof paints will taint your water's taste. Of course, roofing that contains any trace of asbestos should not be used to collect water.*

How can I make sure that leaves and dirt don't get in my water?

Again, it is best to get in professionals to determine your specific filtration needs. There are a number of devices that can be fitted to ensure that your water is filtered adequately.

It is recommended that you install a first-flush diverter, particularly if you're using the water for washing your clothes or flushing your toilets. This diverter is designed to collect the dirt, dust and debris that are washed into the gutter during initial rainfall. The diverter blocks the debris from entering

the tanks and the rest of the rainwater, which is relatively clean, is then allowed to flow into the tank.

Leaf litter rain heads:

This simple set-up uses a mesh or grate over a box between the gutter and the first-flush device. It acts to exclude larger debris from the downpipe.

If you are using your water for internal household purposes, some installers recommend a sediment filter be fitted between the tank and the house. Your installer will be able to recommend a suitable product.

Is my guttering suitable for rainwater collection?

If you have the traditional u-shaped gutter, consider replacing or covering it for optimal water quality. There are enclosed gutters on the market such as Smartflo guttering that will exclude most debris from entering the downpipes.

There are also gutter guards available that cover your existing gutter and keep the nasties out of your tank.

What should my tank be made out of?

There are four main materials for water tanks: steel, polyethylene, concrete and fibreglass. Each material has its own advantages, depending on the tank's desired use.

Polyethylene:

Proving increasingly popular for suburban applications, this relatively lightweight material makes for easy site preparation and installation. Poly tanks are now the most common for household use and come in a variety of colours.

Steel:

Most modern steel tanks (Aquaplate by BlueScope Steel is the most common) have a polyethylene inner coating which will prevent corrosion. This tank is comparatively inexpensive.

Concrete:

Concrete water tanks work best when installed underground. Because they can be covered with load-bearing lids, concrete tanks can fit under driveways or other structures. The installation of a concrete tank system is best left to the experts.

Fibreglass:

Corrosion resistant and sturdy, fibreglass tanks are a relatively expensive but long-lasting option. What size tank should I get?

Determine your required tank capacity by assessing the size of your roof catchment area and what the water will be used for - for example, internal or garden use.

Another factor to consider is the amount of space available for the tank. A tank that holds enough water to supplement a townhouse (about 5000 litres) will take up about 2 sq m. A tank with a capacity of 15,000 litres will occupy an area of about 6 sq m. There are a number of slimline tanks on the market designed to fit down narrow side passageways.

For domestic use the Sydney Water Board recommends:

A minimum size of 5000 litres for non-drinking domestic water uses (such as flushing the toilet, washing your clothes, watering the garden, washing the car) and holding stormwater.

A minimum size of 2000 litres for toilet flushing only; or watering a small garden area.

Will I need a pump?

Most tanks operate with a pump. As a general rule you will need a pump if water has to be pushed uphill or along ground level. Elevated tanks, particularly those which are used specifically for the garden, may not need a pump.

There is a variety of pumps on the market, from simple on/off priming models suitable for garden use, to electric, diesel and petrol pumps for internal household use. Electric pumps should suit most domestic applications but we still recommend you consult an expert to ascertain which pump is most appropriate for you.

Does my tank need a concrete, steel or sand base?

The installer or manufacturer of your tank should be able to answer this for you. If you are working on a gravity fed system (rather than a pump system) then it is a good idea to elevate the tank to ensure good water flow. Ask your manufacturer or installer if your tank will corrode when placed directly on earth.

Planning for the future

While many people buy water tanks to fulfil the current council specifications, experts suggest that you should be planning for your future water needs, not just fulfilling the basic requirements - which are likely to change down the track.

Budget checklist

Setting up a rainwater system is not as simple as buying a tank. There are all sorts of costs involved. Ask your system installer if the price quoted includes the following:

- Tank
- Tanks stand (if necessary)
- Full delivery of your tank to the site
- Installation
- Leaf strainers
- First-flush devices
- Pump (if necessary)
- Gutter guards (if necessary)
- Additional plumbing
- Level gauges (if necessary)
- Preparation of the site such as ground levelling