



## Rainwater tanks

For more information:  
Call the hotline  
**1800 243 585**

# Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme

# Rainwater tanks

## Rebate available: up to \$1000 towards purchase and installation

Collecting rainwater for use in the garden, laundry, toilet and to top up a swimming pool reduces use of and reliance on town water.

### What does the rainwater tank rebate cover?

A rebate of up to \$1000 is available for the purchase and installation of home rainwater storages made up of any combination of:

- new rainwater tank/s installed for either indoor or outdoor use (that is, may be 'free standing' or connected to the house for indoor use)
- pipes from roofs to tanks or swimming pools
- connections from new or existing tanks to swimming pools
- connections from new tanks, existing tanks or water storage units (i.e. swimming pools which have been converted to water storage units) for indoor use, including a pump and mains water backup where required and subject to relevant local council approval
- efficient irrigation systems attached to the rainwater tank
- any other reasonable financial costs you have incurred directly to get the rainwater tank working (e.g. delivery, construction of a base, pressure pumps, plumbing work, electrical work, pipework, valves, fittings and any other accessories).

### What you need to be aware of to claim a rebate

To be eligible for the rebate, rainwater tanks must meet relevant Australian standards and local council requirements.

Where mandatory requirements do not apply, there are no minimum requirements for tank volume and you do not have to plumb the tank for internal use within the house unless you choose to do so.

Where space restricts installation of a single large-volume tank, you can install a number of smaller volume tanks to achieve the required volume. Just the one application form is required in this instance, when applying for a rebate for a number of tanks. However, the rebate available is still up to \$1000, regardless of the number of tanks installed, with the maximum rebate payable of \$1000 per household.

If you do decide to connect your rainwater tank for indoor use, the connections must be installed by a plumber licensed in Queensland, in accordance with relevant state and local council regulations. If connected for indoor use, the connection must include at least one toilet, or the laundry cold water tap (for clothes washing machine use).

Where relevant, you must obtain a plumbing approval certificate (available from your local council) demonstrating that the tank has been plumbed in accordance with required terms and conditions.

Please refer to the [Terms and Conditions](#) for detailed information on the requirements under the Home and Garden WaterWise Rebate Schemes.

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Where a tank and associated installation products have been purchased prior to 13 June 2006 by residents of South East Queensland, and prior to 16 August 2006 by residents in the remainder of Queensland, but were not installed until after those dates, a rebate will be provided for installation only. In the event that an additional water tank is purchased during the remainder of the lifetime of the scheme, a rebate may be available minus the amount of the rebate already provided.

The rebate is intended to contribute to the cost of purchasing and/or installing the water tank and associated products. The total rebates received for any item, from both the local council and State Government, will not exceed the total purchase and installation costs.

The rebate is only available once the rainwater tank/s is installed and operational.

### Why you need a licensed plumber to install your tank for indoor use

Householders cannot legally connect a water tank for internal use. Tanks that have not been internally installed by a plumber licensed in Queensland are ineligible for the rebate.

Plumbers licensed in Queensland must be able to provide a Registration Number, Licence Number, and be registered with the Building Services Authority (BSA) to carry out installations.

### New Homes

The government has introduced mandatory installation of water tanks which apply where building development applications have been lodged for the construction of new houses in South East Queensland from 1 January 2007. These mandatory water saving targets will be rolled out Statewide on 1 July 2007.

Where mandatory requirements apply, you are not entitled to a rebate for the mandatory water tank/s. However, you can claim for an additional water tank/s. Rebates may also be available from your local council and it is recommended that you contact your local council for more information.

For more information on mandatory requirements for water tanks, go to <[www.lgp.qld.gov.au/?id=4471](http://www.lgp.qld.gov.au/?id=4471)>

### Is it safe to drink from a rainwater tank?

If you are considering using tank water for cooking or drinking, you should:

- refer to the Queensland Health publication *Managing the use of rainwater tanks*, which is available at <[www.health.qld.gov.au/phs/documents/ehu/30632.pdf](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/phs/documents/ehu/30632.pdf)>
- talk to your local council to determine what its plumbing requirements are with respect to what you are proposing.

### Do water restrictions apply to rainwater tanks?

If your tank is not connected to the town/mains water supply you can use the rainwater in it for any purpose at any time (even when water restrictions are in place).

However, if your tank is empty and you fill it from the town/mains water supply, or have a carrier deliver water from a town/mains water supply, you must comply with any prevailing water restrictions, as the water has been obtained directly or indirectly (via the carrier) from within a local council reticulated water system.

If your tank has a backup town/mains water supply and does not have a town/mains by-pass valve, outside use of water from that tank must comply with any water restrictions in force in your local council area. You should also check with your local council for its particular requirements.

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