

Water tanks



Rain water tanks can provide 50 - 70 per cent of your household water needs.

Why get rain water tanks?

Melbourne's urban roof catchment is ideal for capturing rain water. When it rains, tanks are very efficient at catching every drop, and every drop of water saved reduces water waste.

Traditionally, the average Melbourne household uses around 188,000 L per year, and of this 19 percent is flushed down the toilet, a further 15 per cent is used in the laundry, and 35 per cent is used outside.

Rain water tanks can save 50 - 70 per cent of this household water demand when they are plumbed into the toilet and combined with water efficient taps, toilets and showerheads.

How do they work?

Rainwater tanks come in a variety of colours, shapes and sizes to capture the water off your roof top when it rains. Long thin tanks and water walls are designed to fit in small backyards and beside the house and some are even made like an expandable bladder to fit under backyard decking.

Most tanks are fitted with a first flush device to ensure water entering the tank is clean, as well as filters and protection to ensure insects can't get in.

The optimum size for a tank is 3000 - 5000 L or two tanks that make up the same volume to capture water from each side of the roof. It is best if the tank is plumbed into the toilet and laundry and as the tank regularly empties it is ready to fill up when it rains. This approach harvests the most rainwater over the course of a year - around 50,000-70,000 L. When the tank is empty, household toilet flushing and laundry needs can be switched over to mains water automatically.

Many people also use their tank water to support gardens during water restrictions, for this reason sometimes people have a tank separate from mains water so they don't break restrictions.

Most Councils encourage the installation of rainwater tanks, but if you live in a heritage area it's best to check if any planning conditions apply.

How can you get them?

Rainwater tanks are readily available from garden and plumbing centres, as well as online. State rebates up to \$1000 and Federal Governments rebates up to \$500 are available depending on the size of the tank and whether it is plumbed into the house.

For further information about water tank rebates

- > www.environment.gov.au/rebates
- > www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_households/rebates