



Rebate Scheme

Rainwater tanks

Storing rainwater for the garden or for use in your laundry or toilet or to top up a swimming pool is a great way to save water.

What can I get this rebate for?

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

- new rainwater tanks installed for either indoor or outdoor use (that is, it 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 or existing tanks or existing rainwater fed swimming pools for indoor use (including a pump and mains water backup, where required and subject to local government approval).

No minimum size applies to the rainwater tank.

What do I need to be aware of?

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

If you decide to connect your rainwater tank for indoor use, the connections must be installed by a licensed plumber, 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.

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

The rebate can only be claimed once per property over the lifetime of the scheme.

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

Can I use an internally connected rainwater tank to hose my garden under level 3 or greater water restrictions?

Yes, but you must tell the plumber you want to do this and ensure the right connections are installed.

If you are on town water, internally connected water tanks have a backup mains supply. This is especially important for toilet connections so there is always water for flushing even if the water tank is empty.

If this backup supply is provided through a 'mains water top-up' device in your tank, outside water use from that tank must comply with any water restrictions in force in your council area.

There are alternative connections that avoid mains water going into the tank. A mains water bypass system allows for your laundry and toilet to revert to your mains if your tank runs dry. This system will not permit you to fill your tank with mains water.

The Queensland Water Commission has advised you will need one of these if you plan to hose your garden during level 3 or greater water restrictions. Ask your plumber or your council for advice.

Example:

I am a Brisbane City Council resident. After 1 July 2006, I spend \$5000 on a new rainwater tank that I also have plumbed into my house and connected to my toilet and laundry. I can contact the Brisbane City Council which will provide a rebate of \$850 (\$750 for the tank and \$100 for installation). Through the Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme I can now apply for a further rebate of \$1000. The total amount of rebates that I can receive from my council and the Queensland Government is \$1850.