



Homeowners rainwater tank checklist

What can I use my rainwater for? Clean rainwater collected from an urban roof is suitable for toilet flushing, washing machine use, garden irrigation and outdoor use and is not recommended for drinking.	
Do I have necessary approvals? Contact your local council and plumbing authority for details. While tanks with up to 3000 litre capacities generally do not require local council planning approval, your local plumbing authority will have guidelines regarding how they can be installed and approved for use, including advice on location of the tank.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do I have room to place a rainwater tank? Rainwater tanks come in many shapes and sizes—consult a tank supplier for a list of available shapes and sizes. Be careful where you install your tank as it is not permitted to be placed over sewer mains.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do I have adequate access for a tank to be delivered to the place I want to have it installed? A tank might need to be delivered over a neighbour's fence, or rolled from a nearby location a truck can access.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will a full tank impact on my house footings or other structures such as retaining walls? Water weighs 1 tonne per 1000 litres—a 5000 litre tank will weigh 5 tonnes when full. Consult a structural engineer if you have concerns. Overflow water can also impact on footings and must be directed to the stormwater point of discharge on the property.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Can I choose the shape and colour of my tank? Tanks are available in a range of shapes, sizes, colours and material types. Consult a tank supplier for more information.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is it possible to direct water from my roof to the tank? Plumbing water from the roof to the tank can be challenging. You will need to consider gutter capacity, direction of slope and location of downpipes. Consult a specialist if you are considering a 'wet system'. A wet system has downpipes that are connected to a pipework system that runs under the ground, and then up into the tank. This type of pipework system is often unavoidable due to the location of the tanks relative to the roof, but can retain sludge and other debris, and may be a breeding ground for organisms and mosquitoes.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



<p>Do I need a pump? Most rainwater tank systems will require a pump to generate adequate pressure. Washing machines and some irrigation systems require a level of pressure similar to mains water. When connecting your rainwater supply to your toilet or laundry, plumbers recommend a pump which will automatically switch to mains supply when your tank water gets to a specific level. In times of water restrictions you must ensure you are not using mains supply on your garden.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Do I have a place to locate the pump? The pump should ideally be located lower than the tank outlet. If the pump is to be located in an open area, an acoustic cover would be recommended to minimise noise. It would be advisable to check noise restrictions and any pump location provisions with your local council.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Have I considered the need to provide power to the pump? An electrician may need to install power supply for the pump.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Do I need a tank stand? A tank stand could potentially allow a tank to be positioned so it can feed the intended end uses by gravity at low pressure. However, tank stands are not required to protect the tank, and most tanks can be installed on either a concrete pad, packing sand or natural soil. Due to the weight of the water, tank stands can be expensive, and it may be more cost-effective to install a small pressure pump than a tank stand.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Have I considered the extent of plumbing required and devices to be installed? Plumbing needs to comply with relevant legislative and local plumbing authority requirements. A plumber will be required to install new pipework to direct rainwater to the chosen end uses. You may choose to have the plumber install a special device to allow mains water backup if there is a problem with the tank or pump. Depending on the configuration, the plumber may also need to install a top-up device for the tank to keep the system going in dry weather. Finally, if existing appliances have been set up specifically for the available mains pressure, they may need to be altered or replaced to work with the pressure available from the pump or by gravity direct from the tank.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No