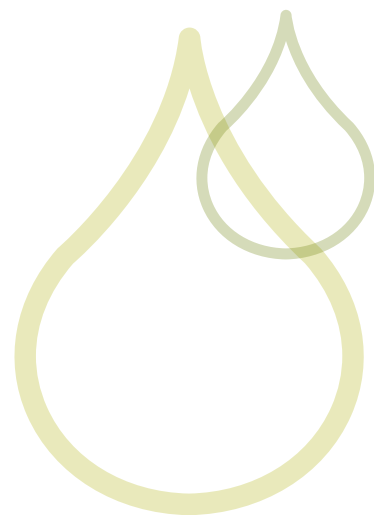




NSW CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

Rainwater Tank Rebate application form



Why are we offering you a rebate?

The NSW Government's \$310 million Climate Change Fund has been established to help business, households and government save energy and water.

It includes \$100 million for residential rebates to help householders make their homes more water and energy efficient. As well as rebates for rainwater tanks, the program will also provide rebates for insulation and energy efficient hot water systems.

The purpose of the Rainwater Tank Rebate is to save drinking water by encouraging householders to install a tank to harvest water to flush toilets and wash clothes. The rebate is scaled so that the highest rebate is available for tanks which are connected to a toilet and washing machine.

Eligibility criteria

The rainwater tank rebate is available for the installation of any new rainwater storage system for a residential property. It must have a minimum 2000 litre capacity and be purchased in full and installed between 1 July, 2007 and 30 June, 2009.

Households not connected to the mains supply are eligible for a rebate for the purchase of the tank only.

Rainwater tanks installed to comply with BASIX (the Building Sustainability Index) for new homes, major renovations or a pool installation are not eligible for a rebate.

If you install more than one tank, it's the combined size that counts. The total rebate can be no more than the total cost of the tank and installation.

TANK(S) CAPACITY	REBATE	CONNECTION TO TOILET(S)	CONNECTION TO WASHING MACHINE(S)	MAXIMUM TOTAL
2,000 – 3,999 litres	\$150	\$500	\$500	\$1150
4,000 – 6,999 litres	\$400	\$500	\$500	\$1400
7,000 litres and above	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$1500

Tank types and size

Rainwater tanks can be above or below ground and can be made of:

- + plastic
- + galvanised steel
- + concrete, or
- + fibreglass.

Other types of eligible storage systems include bladders and gutter storage.

The most suitable tank for your home will depend on your budget, site and personal preference. You may also need to take into account location-specific needs such as coastal environments, bushfire prone areas or sites with poor access. Tank manufacturers and suppliers will be able to advise on the most suitable tank for your needs.

Local planning regulations

The rules covering installation of rainwater tanks vary in different council areas. Generally tanks with a capacity of 10,000 litres or less do not need council approval. However your council may have specific requirements for installing the tank, including size, colour and distance from neighbours' boundaries.

Contact your local council to find out about planning and building requirements in your area before you install a rainwater tank.



Tank installation and connection

Rainwater tank connections to the toilet or washing machine must be undertaken by a licensed plumber and meet requirements under the NSW Code of Practice for Plumbing and Drainage.

The licensed plumber will need to sign your rebate application form to confirm that the tank has been professionally connected and complies with the regulations.

Many local water utilities require an inspection of rainwater tank plumbing. Your plumber is required to notify the local water utility on completion of rainwater tank plumbing work.

On receipt of your rebate application, we will also notify your local water utility that a tank has been installed at your property. If applicable, the local water utility will arrange an inspection with you. The inspection would cover internal plumbing, back-flow prevention, mains top-up and the tank overflow system. If the tank has not been correctly installed your local water utility and/or council may request that it is removed. The Department of Environment and Climate Change may also request that the rebate is repaid.

Backflow prevention devices

Tanks connected to toilets and washing machines must have a backflow prevention device to ensure that rainwater from the tank does not mix with the drinking water supply.

Your local water utility or the licensed plumber who installs your tank can advise on the backflow prevention requirements.

Mains top-up

To ensure water quality, rainwater tanks should not be allowed to run dry. Most rainwater tanks, especially ones that are plumbed into the house, are topped up with mains (drinking) water. This ensures that there is always water available to flush toilets and wash clothes during long periods without rain.

Because the tank will be supplemented with mains water when levels get low, you may still be subject to water restrictions if they are in place in your area.

Other costs to consider

As well as the tank and installation costs, the total bill for installing a rainwater tank is likely to include extras such as a stand, pump, first flush device, gutter guards and insect screens.

Your supplier and/or licensed plumber will be able to provide full details of costs to meet your needs. It is recommended that you get two or three quotes from suppliers to assess the best option for you.

Health requirements

The NSW Department of Health does not recommend drinking rainwater where a reticulated water supply is available. More information is available from the NSW Health Rainwater Tank brochure, available for download from the department's website at www.health.nsw.gov.au.

Applying for the rebate?

You apply for the rebate after your tank has been installed and any plumbing work is completed. You will need to:

- + agree to the terms and conditions of the rebate offer
- + complete and sign the application form
- + ensure a licensed plumber has signed the form if the tank is connected internally and/or tops up from the mains supply
- + attach your original receipt(s) for the tank and installation.

Forward the application form and receipts to:

NSW Climate Change Fund Rainwater Tank Rebate Program | PO Box A290 | Sydney South 1232.

When will I receive the rebate?

We will send your rebate cheque within 60 days of receiving the completed application form and receipt(s), subject to verification of your application details.