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# Rainwater Tank Rebate

Up to \$800

# Why are we offering you a rebate?

Households use around 70 per cent of the water consumed in greater Sydney. To help you save our precious drinking water, Sydney Water is offering a rebate for the installation of a rainwater tank.

You can get a rebate of up to \$800 depending on:

- the size of your tank
- whether a licensed plumber connects your rainwater tank supply to your toilet and/or washing machine.

If you install more than one tank, it's the combined size that counts. The tank must also comply with any local council requirements.

## How can I qualify for a rebate?

To qualify, your new rainwater tank must:

- be ordered, paid for in full and installed between 20 October 2002 and 31 July 2008
- have a total capacity of 2,000 litres or more, and
- meet the other terms and conditions listed in this brochure.

Tank(s) capacity	Rebate
2,000 – 3,999 litres	\$150
4,000 – 6,999 litres	\$400
7,000 litres and above	\$500
Rainwater tank connected by a plumber to toilet and/or washing machine*	Additional \$300*

\* This rebate is applicable for connections paid for and installed on or after 19 October 2006. Connections made prior to this date receive \$150.

## What steps do I need to take?

### Meet local planning requirements

Make sure you know the planning and building requirements in your area before installing the tank.

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.

If the tank is over 10,000 litres, check with Sydney Water to prevent installing the tank near, or over, a sewer main or access point.

### Install a backflow prevention device

Backflow can occur when rainwater from a tank mixes with the drinking water supply. To prevent this, a backflow prevention device needs to be installed at your property boundary.

### Above ground tanks

In most cases, Sydney Water will provide a new water meter with a backflow prevention device, free of charge to customers who have an above ground tank and an accessible standard sized water meter (20 or 25mm meter). However some customers will need to install a backflow prevention device at their own expense. This includes properties where:

- the water meter is greater than 25mm
- the water meter is inaccessible
- the property is unmetered
- the water meter is shared amongst other properties.

## Below ground tanks

If you have a below ground tank, you are required to install a testable backflow prevention device at your property boundary. If your below ground tank has a connection with Sydney Water's drinking water supply, an additional backflow prevention device is required. This may be a physical air gap or a testable backflow prevention device.

All testable backflow prevention devices need to be tested annually. You will need to pay for the cost of installation and the annual test. Installing a backflow prevention device can cost from \$300 to more than \$1,000 depending on your individual plumbing requirements. Your licensed plumber can provide advice regarding the type of backflow prevention required.

If you are unsure whether you will need to install a backflow prevention device, phone Sydney Water on 13 20 92.

## What else do I need to know?

### New or renovated properties

You may need to install a rainwater tank to comply with BASIX (the Building Sustainability Index). BASIX ensures all new houses and units in New South Wales are designed to use 40 per cent less water and produce between 25 and 40 per cent less greenhouse gases. From 1 October 2006, these targets also apply to major renovations over \$100,000. Under BASIX, the designs for new homes and major renovations must be submitted for online assessment. If the design meets these targets, a BASIX certificate is issued.

If you have installed a rainwater tank to meet BASIX requirements, and you have a BASIX certificate dated after 31 December 2004, you are not eligible for a rebate.

## How do I apply for a rebate?

**Once your rainwater tank has been installed** and any plumbing work is completed, you are ready to apply for the rebate. You will need to:

- read the Terms and Conditions of the rebate offer
- complete the attached application form
- complete section 3 of the form if you had plumbing work done
- attach your original receipt(s) for the tank and installation.

Forward the application form and original receipts to:

### **Sydney Water Rainwater Tank Rebate Program**

PO Box 17

Wollongong NSW 2520

## When will I receive the rebate?


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

## Further information

If you would like more information about selecting, using and maintaining rainwater tanks, visit the Saving Water section of our website at [www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au) or phone Sydney Water on 13 20 92.



## Checklist

<b>Before you apply for a rebate, have you...</b>	
Checked with your local council to ensure you have met all planning and building requirements?	
Ensured a backflow prevention device has been installed if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the water meter is greater than 25mm</li><li>• the water meter is inaccessible</li><li>• the tank is below ground</li><li>• the property is unmetered</li><li>• the water meter is shared amongst other properties.</li></ul> Phone Sydney Water on 13 20 92 for further information.	
Checked that BASIX requirements do not exclude you from applying for a rebate?	
Completed all sections of the application form?	
Ensured your plumber has completed the plumber's declaration if your tank has plumbing connections?	
Attached original receipts for tank purchase and installation?	

# Terms and Conditions for Sydney Water's Rainwater Tank Rebate Program

The following terms and conditions apply to Sydney Water's Rainwater Tank Rebate Program. The applicant should read them carefully before signing the application form.

## 1. Application:

Any application for a rebate must be submitted on an 'Application for a rainwater tank rebate' form and must be approved by Sydney Water before a rebate can be issued. The application must be completed in full and have original receipts for the purchase and installation of the rainwater tank(s) attached. To apply for the rebate the applicant must be an owner of the property where the tank is installed.

## 2. Eligibility:

To be eligible for a rebate the applicant must complete an 'Application for a rainwater tank rebate' form and attach the original receipt(s). The receipt(s) must be in the applicant's name. Sydney Water must receive this no later than 5.00pm on 31 July 2008. The applicant must have installed a rainwater tank(s) that:

- a. was purchased on or after 20 October 2002 and by 31 July 2008
- b. has a minimum total capacity of 2,000 litres (note: this capacity must be reserved for rainwater only and excludes any capacity reserved for potable top-ups)
- c. is (are) located on the same property where there are multiple tanks
- d. is new
- e. is on land that has an authorised or approved connection to a water main owned by Sydney Water
- f. is used solely for the collection and storage of rainwater for use on the site (rainwater is water collected from roof guttering and downpipes)
- g. meets all relevant standards, building codes, backflow prevention, Sydney Water and local council requirements
- h. is covered by a minimum 12 month warranty
- i. has all associated plumbing work completed by a licensed plumber
- j. was installed and paid for in full by 31 July 2008
- k. is not a stormwater retention tank(s) that is designed only for stormwater management. This type of tank(s) is (are) not eligible for the rebate. Rainwater tank(s) that store water solely for firefighting purposes are also not eligible.

## 3. BASIX

A rebate will not be paid to any applicant who was required to install a rainwater tank, or make a connection to a toilet or washing machine, to satisfy a BASIX commitment unless the BASIX certificate was issued on or prior to 31 December 2004. If your BASIX certificate was issued after 31 December 2004, a rebate will not be issued.

## 4. Backflow prevention

The NSW Plumbing Code of Practice requires that all properties with a rainwater tank must have a backflow prevention device on the property's boundary, regardless of whether the tank has a permanent connection to the water supply. Sydney Water will not issue a rebate until this requirement has been satisfied. To assist customers to comply with this requirement Sydney Water will provide a new water meter with a backflow prevention device for most residential customers with a standard 20 or 25 mm water meter. Sydney Water cannot provide this assistance if reasonable access cannot be obtained to the meter for exchange ("reasonable" is at the sole discretion of Sydney Water).

Applicants with properties where the size of the water meter is more than 25mm, regardless of whether the rainwater tank is installed above or below ground, will be responsible for the installation of an appropriate backflow prevention device, which must be fitted by a licensed plumber. This may be the case with some medium density or high rise properties. **If unsure of the size of your meter, phone Sydney Water on 13 20 92.**

## Above ground tanks:

- a. Where the rainwater tank is installed above ground with no interconnection (or cross connection) between the rainwater tank service and the water service supplied from a Sydney Water main, no additional backflow prevention is required.

- b. Where the rainwater tank is installed above ground **with an interconnection** (or cross connection) between the rainwater tank service and the water service supplied from a Sydney Water main the applicant is responsible for the installation of an additional appropriate backflow prevention device at their expense. Your licensed plumber should provide advice regarding the type of backflow prevention required. In this case, a rebate will not be paid until the backflow prevention device has been installed by a licensed plumber and a permit and Certificate of Compliance have been supplied to Sydney Water.

#### **Below ground tanks:**

- a. Where the rainwater tank is installed **below ground** or on an industrial or commercial property, the applicant is responsible for the installation of an appropriate testable backflow prevention device at the property boundary at their expense which must be fitted by a licensed plumber. In these cases, a rebate will not be paid until the backflow prevention device has been fitted and the plumber has supplied a permit, Certificate of Compliance and a Backflow Prevention Maintenance and Test Report to Sydney Water.
- b. Where the rainwater tank is installed **below ground** or on an industrial or commercial property **with an interconnection** (or cross connection) between the rainwater tank service and the water service supplied from a Sydney Water main, the applicant is responsible for the installation of an additional backflow prevention device at their expense which must be fitted by a licensed plumber. This may be another testable backflow prevention device or a physical air gap. Your licensed plumber should provide advice regarding the type of backflow prevention required. In this case, a rebate will not be paid until both backflow prevention devices have been installed and the plumber has supplied a permit, Certificate of Compliance and Backflow Prevention Maintenance and Test reports to Sydney Water.

#### **Other applicants with properties where:**

- a. There is no water meter on the property (this includes properties that share a water meter with other dwellings) will be required to
  - i) engage a licensed plumber to undertake the appropriate plumbing work in an accessible location for Sydney Water to install a standard 20mm or 25mm meter with integral dual check valves or
  - ii) engage a licensed plumber to install a separate backflow prevention device at the property boundary to qualify for a rebate. The meter installation will be provided free of charge but all other work will be at the customer's expense.
- b. The water meter is inaccessible will be required to engage a licensed plumber to install a backflow prevention device at the property boundary at the customer's expense or make their water meter accessible. An accessible meter has a clear space of at least 300mm around and 1,200mm above.

#### **5. Initial inspection**

Sydney Water will need to inspect the rainwater tank at least once prior to any rebate being issued. If the applicant fails the first inspection, any additional inspections will be at the sole discretion of Sydney Water. Sydney Water may choose not to pay the rebate if the applicant fails the first inspection.

#### **6. Ongoing operation of tank**

The rainwater tank must operate on the property for a period of five (5) years after installation. On provision of reasonable notice from Sydney Water, the property owner will allow Sydney Water access to the rainwater tank to conduct audits to ensure its continued operation.

#### **7. Research**

For the first five (5) years following installation, rebate recipients may be asked to participate in Sydney Water research about rainwater tanks.

#### **8. Sole rebate**

Sydney Water will only issue one (1) rebate cheque per property.

#### **9. Refund of rebate**

Applicants will be required to repay the rebate if any of these terms and conditions are found to have been breached in the first five (5) years after installation of the rainwater tank.

#### **10. Program changes**

Sydney Water reserves the right, at its sole and absolute discretion and at any time, to change any or all of the terms and conditions for the rebate program

or to cancel the rebate program prior to 31 July 2008. Applications must be received by Sydney Water prior to any published termination date for the rebate program. The terms and conditions are available on Sydney Water's website.

#### **11. Liability**

The applicant(s) acknowledges and agrees that as far as the law permits, Sydney Water accepts no liability in respect to any claim, cause of action or loss or damage arising out of, or in relation to, any rainwater tank, rainwater tank system or the consumption of any water from such rainwater tank or system that is the subject of funding assistance. The applicant(s) agrees that they will indemnify and keep indemnified Sydney Water from any claim or liability arising out of, or in relation to, the rainwater tank system that is the subject of this application to the extent that any claim or liability is not caused by Sydney Water's negligence or breach of this application or any other term implied by law.

#### **12. Payment**

Payment of approved rebates will be by cheque only and made payable to the property owner(s).

#### **13. Privacy notice**

In accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIP Act) Sydney Water collects and manages the personal information you provide. Information collected by Sydney Water may be disclosed to the Department of Planning and/or the relevant local council. The provision of this information is voluntary, however Sydney Water will not issue a rebate to an applicant who refuses to provide information or agree to the disclosure of their details to the above agencies. If the information provided by the Department of Planning and/or councils indicates that you are not eligible, then Sydney Water will not pay the rebate or will seek reimbursement of any rebate paid. For further information or enquiries regarding privacy or access to your information, contact the Privacy Coordinator by emailing [privacy@sydneywater.com.au](mailto:privacy@sydneywater.com.au) or writing to:

**The Privacy Coordinator,**

Sydney Water, PO Box A53, Sydney South NSW 1232

# Contact us

## Enquiries

Call 13 20 92 or visit  
[www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au)

## Service difficulties and emergencies

Call 13 20 90

## Postal address

Sydney Water Rainwater Tank Rebate Program  
PO Box 17  
Wollongong NSW 2520

A graphic of a water drop with a dark blue center and a lighter blue outer ring, partially overlapping another drop shape.

every  
drop  
counts

Water  for Life

A water plan from the  
NSW GOVERNMENT 