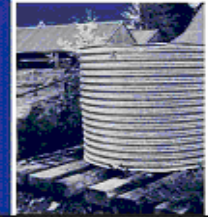
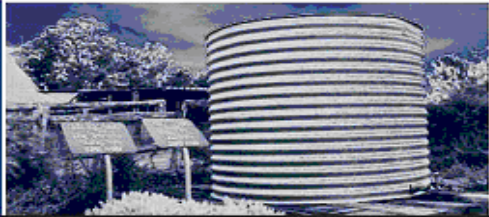


# water efficiency



## rainwater tanks



*Council recognises the importance of water as a natural resource and the ever increasing demand that is placed on it. Council will be working with the community to implement sustainable water resource management in line with water restrictions and Council's commitment to a sustainable future.*



Rainwater tanks store rainwater run-off from your roof and offer an alternative water supply for use in your home and garden. Household rainwater tanks reduce water usage and save you money most effectively when used in conjunction with water efficient devices such as dual flush toilets, AAA rated showerheads and tap timers. Rainwater tanks also help to manage stormwater flow and pollution, as the water that would normally overflow in the stormwater system during peak flows is captured by your rainwater tank.

### ◆ rebates

Sydney Water offers rebates on rainwater tanks to customers within the Sydney Water area. This

- the number of people in your home (if to be used for toilet flushing);
- the amount of water you currently use;
- the size of your garden;
- intended use of rainwater;

offer has recently been extended until June 2005. Please contact Sydney Water on 13 20 92 or visit their website at [www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au) for further information.

### ◆ choosing a tank

There are many types of rainwater tanks available for residential use. The type you choose depends on a number of factors such as budget, use and whether the tank will be above or below ground. Tanks can be made out of:

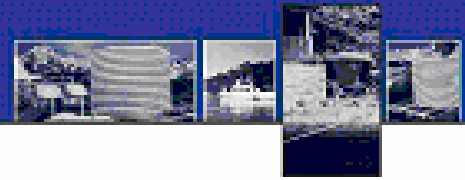
- polyethylene;
- metal;
- concrete, and
- fibreglass.

Things to consider when installing a tank include:

- available fittings and components to suit your needs;
- the size of your roof and catchment area, and
- council requirements.

# water efficiency

## rainwater tanks



### ◇ council requirements

Most residential water tanks are exempt from requiring development consent, however there are complying conditions outlined in *State Environmental Planning Policy No 4 – Development without Consent and Miscellaneous Exempt and Complying Development* that need to be met. If your tank does not meet any of the following requirements, development consent is required prior to tank installation.

For a rainwater tank to be exempt development, it must comply with all of the following requirements, plus further contained in the abovementioned policy:

- The capacity of the tank or the combined capacity of the tanks on a lot must not exceed 10,000 litres.
- The tank must not collect water from a source other than gutters or downpipes on a building or a water supply service pipe.
- The tank must not collect water from a source other than gutters or downpipes on a building or a water supply service pipe.
- Any overflow from the tank must be directed into an existing stormwater system.
- The tank must be enclosed, and any inlet to the tank must be screened or filtered, to
  - The tank must be prefabricated, or be constructed from prefabricated elements that were designed and manufactured for the purpose of the construction of a rainwater tank.
  - The installation of the tank must not involve the excavation of more than 1 metre from the existing ground level, or the filling of more than 1 metre above the existing ground level.
  - The tank must be located behind the front alignment to the street of the building to which the tank is connected (or, in the case of a building on a corner block, the tank must be located behind both the street front and street side alignments of the building).
  - The tank must not exceed 2.4 metres in height above ground level, including any stand for the tank.
  - The tank must be located at least 450 millimetres from any property boundary.
  - A sign must be affixed to the tank clearly stating that the water in the tank is rainwater.  
prevent the entry of foreign matter or creatures.
  - The tank must be maintained at all times so as not to cause a nuisance with respect to mosquito breeding or overland flow of water.



THE BUSHLAND SHIRE  
296 Pacific Highway  
Hornsby NSW 2077 Telephone 9847 6666  
8.30am - 5.00pm  
[www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

### FURTHER INFORMATION

General information on rainwater tanks can be obtained from the Environmental Health & Protection Team on **9847 6829** or Sydney Water at: [www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au)

