Smart Approved WaterMark

Advice

SAVING WATER WITH RAINWATER TANKS

Rainwater tanks help collect excess water and they also reduce the amount of water that runs off your roof.

Storm water runoff collects pollutants and can contribute to flash flooding, erosion damage and pollution in local creeks. Tanks can divert some of this water for a useful purpose.

WHY USE RAINWATER TANKS?

1. The best reason for using rainwater is that it is free, and, if not captured in a tank, it is a vital resource that literally goes down the drain.
2. Rainwater tanks are an increasingly common feature in gardens around Australia. Despite the initial cost, installing a rainwater tank can save you money by reducing your water bill in the long-term, and help save the environment.
3. Diverting stormwater runoff from your roof for household uses, such as toilet flushing, also reduces polluted inflows to our waterways.

- If you have a tank with water in it, use it on your garden - it is the best quality alternative to mains water and should be used in preference to greywater. Using tank water on your garden with other water saving measures such as mulch, drip systems and soil additives will help sustain your garden during periods of hot, dry weather.
- Rainwater tanks can be connected to the toilet and laundry of a home. This helps to maximise the benefits from the rainwater tanks as water can be used year around and not just during the dry months of the year.
- Your plumber or rainwater tank retailer should be able to assist with the sizing and location of a tank for your home.
- Installing a rainwater tank, together with other household water saving devices, can reduce your household water use by up to 25 per cent – saving you money on water bills and conserving drinking water.
- If you're building a new home, installing a rainwater tank can help you achieve the minimum regulatory requirements of the 6 Star Standard. To meet the 6 Star Standard with a rainwater tank, it must:
    1. Be installed in such a way that it receives the rainfall from the minimum catchment area of 50 square meters.
    2. Have a minimum capacity of 2000 litres.
    3. Be connected to all toilets in the building for the purpose of sanitary flushing.
- Rainwater can be used for flushing your toilet, watering your garden or for use in washing machines. You should test rainwater for drinking quality before you drink it.

Watch the 'How to' video guides on our Smart WaterMark YouTube channel

For more Smart Water Advice go to www.smartwatermark.org/NSW

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