

RAINWATER TANKS

Information for Plumbers

This Fact Sheet applies to rainwater tanks that collect **roof water only**. Plumbing work for tanks includes plumbing for “top up” from the mains supply or where the rainwater is plumbed to the toilet cistern or washing machine. Council’s Fact Sheet ‘Information for Installers’ covers specific site installation requirements for rainwater tanks. The information below provides a brief outline of the key requirements.

All work is required to be carried out by licensed plumbers. Plumbers should complete all work in accordance with the *NSW Code of Practice Plumbing and Drainage, AS 3500* and follow the specific technical requirements for rainwater tank plumbing that are detailed in *Guidelines for the Installation of Rainwater Tanks on Residential Properties: Part 1 Plumbing Requirements*.

- 1 Where a rainwater tank is being installed on an existing dwelling connected to Council’s water supply no application for plumbing and drainage work is required. A rebate is available from January 1, 2003 to owners for retrofitting tanks to existing dwellings that are connected to Council’s water supply. This rebate is also available for rainwater tanks installed on any dwelling for which the Development Application was lodged with Council prior to January 1 2003. A separate form is available to apply for this rebate.
- 2 For new dwellings no rebate is available. Plumbing and drainage work is to be completed in accordance with the applicable development consent conditions for the property.
- 3 There must be no direct connection of the rainwater to pipes carrying town water from the mains supply.
- 4 Where the rainwater tank is to be topped up from the mains supply:
 - the drinking water supply inlet to the tank is to be 20mm nominal size. A stop valve and 500 Kpa pressure limiting valve (required where the pressure in the Council main is above 500kpa) are to be installed before the float valve and/or solenoid control valve.
 - there must be a visible air gap (external to the rainwater tank) between the inlet pipe from the mains supply and the maximum level of the rainwater in the tank. The air gap must be located such as to provide the householder with visible flow detection during top up.
- 5 All tank outlets must be labelled “RAINWATER” on a metallic sign as specified in AS1319.
- 6 All pipes carrying rainwater must be labelled “RAINWATER”. This can be done using identification tape for below ground pipe (made in accordance with AS 2648) or adhesive pipe markers for above ground (made in accordance with AS 1345).
- 7 For laundry washing machines a separate tap connected to the tank outlet must be supplied for cold water supply. This outlet must be labelled “Rainwater” in accordance with 5 above.
- 8 A backflow prevention device must be installed by Council at the property meter to protect the mains supply. The type of device varies in different situations. The details are as follows:

For above and below ground rainwater tanks with an air gap:

20mm and 25mm meters Wyong Council will replace the existing meter free of charge with a new integral dual check valve meter. This will be done either on receipt of the customer’s rainwater tank rebate application form, or on the receipt of a water service application as part of the development consent on or after January 1, 2003.

NOTE: For some residential, industrial or commercial underground installations where Council determines there is an increased potential for below ground contaminants to enter the reticulated water supply, Wyong Shire Council may require a higher hazard backflow prevention device.