



RAINWATER TANK INSTALLATION

Council encourages installation of rainwater tanks for new freestanding houses built on properties larger than 250m² and for new commercial buildings. There are a few things you need to know before installing a tank which are summarised below.

The Queensland Development Code (QDC) Part 4.0 Building sustainably, specifies requirements for installing rainwater tanks.

Freestanding houses (class 1) - QDC MP 4.2

- Water must be collected from at least 50 per cent or 100m² (whichever is lesser) of the roof area.
- Tanks must be plumbed to toilets, washing machine and at least one outdoor tap.
- Tanks must have at least 5,000-litre capacity when the property is 250m² or larger.
- Tanks must have at least 45,000-litre capacity if the property is in a rural zone where reticulated water is unavailable and it's connected to the rural residential zone.

Commercial buildings (class 5 to 9) - QDC MP 4.3

- Water must be collected from at least 50 per cent of the roof area.
- Tanks must be plumbed to toilets (50m² per pedestal) and outdoor taps.
- Tanks must at least have a 1,500 litre capacity per pedestal.

Easements and existing

- Rainwater tanks should not be installed on top of council sewer and water mains, or drainage easements.
- Contact council on 1300 242 686 or enquiries@chrc.qld.gov.au to find out where services are before installing your tank.

Overflows

- Overflow must not cause a nuisance to neighbours or erosion to surrounding areas.
- Acceptable overflow points are a bubbler three metres on the downhill side of all buildings, three metres from property boundaries, or into an existing council-approved stormwater drain.

Marking and signage

- Rainwater supply must be marked at intervals not exceeding 500mm.
- Markings must include the word RAINWATER in contrasting colours.
- Water outlets must be identified as RAINWATER, or with a rainwater tap identified by a green coloured indicator with the letters RW.

Building approval

A building approval is required before

installation when any of the following apply

- the tank's base diameter exceeds 3.56 metres
- the overall height exceeds 2.4 metres from natural ground level
- a supporting structure/ tank stand is required, and the overall height is more than 2.4 metres
- an underground tank is within 1.5 metres of another structure
- the tank is mandatory on a block larger than 250 square metres.

Plumbing approval

- Ask your plumber about plumbing requirements or contact council to request standard drawings for preferred connection methods.

More information

- Building approvals – Licensed certifier, qbcc.qld.gov.au
- Installation and maintenance requirements – QDC Part 4.0 Building sustainably, business.qld.gov.au
- Marking and signage – Australian Standard (AS) Clause 2.2 3500 12003 and AS 1345.
- CHRC Rainwater Policy