



RAINWATER TANK MAINTENANCE

Whether your rainwater is for potable or non-potable use, keeping your tank clean is essential to ensure the water is safe to use.

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

WHEN FILTERING OR TREATING IS REQUIRED

If your rainwater is for non-potable use and no-contact use, like in the washing machine or toilet, you don't necessarily need to filter it. But no filter means you have no protection against contaminants or discolouring.

If your rainwater is for potable or contact use, like drinking, showering or cooking, you should treat or filter it. Common methods are:

- boiling
- ultra-violet under bench systems
- filtration.

Visit [Queensland Health](https://www.health.gov.au) for more information.

MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Three monthly

- ❑ Clean gutters and remove leaves and debris
- ❑ Clean first flush devices and repair or replace if required
- ❑ Clean leaf guards on rain heads
- ❑ Check screen on tank overflow outlet

Six monthly

- ❑ Check roof and flashings for defects and remove overhanging tree branches
- ❑ Check tank for defects, screens and lids are in place and functional
- ❑ Check inside of tank for signs of mosquitoes, larvae, algae, other animals
- ❑ Check water quality – must be clear, no taste or smell
- ❑ Check rainwater taps still have correct signage
- ❑ Check pipework is structurally sound and drains are unblocked
- ❑ Check pump noise, for appropriate pressures, leaks and check acoustic enclosure (if applicable)

Once a year

- ❑ Check tank support, if on stand or concrete slab check structural integrity

Every two years

- ❑ Check sediment level in tank and clean out if necessary.

Cleaning out a tank

Check with the manufacturer on the tank's maintenance requirements. Some tanks have a protective internal coating that should not be damaged or other specific considerations you need to be aware of. Remember not to discharge dirty water into a stormwater drain or onto a road. Instead, run the water onto your lawn. You can bury small amounts of sludge in your garden, but take large amounts to the waste facility. You may also like to hire a professional service to do the work.