



SMART WATER ADVICE

Maintaining Rainwater Tanks

Rainwater tanks, be them plastic or steel, are excellent but we must ensure they are safe and in good working order. Here are some great tips on maintaining your rainwater tanks.

- ◆ Have your roof checked to see what it is made of/ painted with to ensure it's not toxic.
- ◆ Fit gutters and downpipes with traps to catch litter and twigs.
- ◆ Maintain roofs and gutters - the cleaner your roof and gutter, the cleaner the water in your tank will be. Use gutter guards but remember to hose them down regularly or if you are using particle gathering gutter guards with brushes.
- ◆ Check and clean gutters every 3-6 months or more often if overhead vegetation exists.
- ◆ Check and clean first flush and leaf eaters every 1-3 months.
- ◆ Cover all openings with mosquito proof mesh.
- ◆ Ensure you install and maintain screens on the inlet and outlets of your tank to keep sticks, leaves, vermin and bird droppings out too.
- ◆ Screens may need to be hosed or scrubbed and should be checked for holes and tears.

- 💧 Check and clean these inlet and outlet screens (including flip style screens) every 1-3 mths.
- 💧 Ensure you maintain the overflow pipe so that leaks and cracks are monitored and managed.
- 💧 Also check and maintain the mesh in the overflow pipe so that vermin and mosquitoes do not get into your pipe.
- 💧 Pumps turn on and off when the water is used. This should be checked regularly to ensure the pump is cutting in. The pump should continue to run until it has created enough pressure to turn itself off.
- 💧 Check and clean pump and controller filters every 3-6 months, replace cartridge filters as per manufacturers recommendations.
- 💧 If there is a problem with the pumping system then refer to the Operations Manual of the pump and/or mains back-up system.
- 💧 Ensure there are air vents to prevent the water from becoming stagnant.
- 💧 Every few years get the inside of the tank cleaned - never get inside your tank.
- 💧 Please ensure that if you install a switching device between rainwater and mains water supplies, that the appropriate water is being used. If there is an issue the system may default to using mains water when rainwater is available.



**Watch the 'How to' video guides on
The Water Conservancy YouTube channel**