



SMART WATER ADVICE

Connecting your rainwater tank

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.

- ◆ A licensed plumber must connect your new or existing rainwater tank into the home toilet or cold water washing machine tap. If connection to both uses is possible, it is highly recommended. The cost for an internal connection will depend on the work required.
- ◆ All plumbing work must be carried out by a licensed plumber and a plumbing certificate of compliance must be provided by the plumber for all works totalling \$750 or more.
- ◆ Tanks connected internally are required on all external rainwater taps and to all internal taps and rainwater points.
- ◆ Consider the following when installing a town water back-up supply:
 1. All connections from the rainwater tank to outlets are required to be installed by a licensed plumber.
 2. As the tank is required to be connected to the toilet or cold water outlet in the laundry, you need to be able to switch over to town water if the tank runs dry.

3. There should be no cross connections between water pipes from the tank and the town water pipe into your home unless there is a backflow prevention device. Backflow prevention device must be fitted where rainwater is connected for internal use. This is vital to prevent contamination of the town water supply.

There are several options for town water back-up for internal fixtures:

1. A trickle feed top-up system adds a small amount of town water to your tank if the rainwater level falls too low.
2. Automatic or manual switching devices that will divert the internal connection between the rainwater tank and the town water supply when the water level in the tank falls below an acceptable level. The switch is located at the junction of the town water supply and rainwater tank supply line and is located away from the tank.
3. A dedicated connection from the tank to the internal fixtures, with no top-up into the rainwater tank. When tank water is no longer available, you will need to swap the supply over to an existing town water supply line inside the house.
4. If the rainwater tank supply is topped up with mains water, the tank water is considered mains water for the purpose of water restrictions and cannot be used for prohibited uses by the water restrictions.



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