



## RAINWATER TANKS

### For a sustainable urban lifestyle

Rainwater tanks provide one of the ways in which Ipswich residents are moving towards more sustainable urban living, bringing significant benefits both to you and the environment:

- saving you money on water bills
- greater self-sufficiency
- added value to your home
- reduction of storm-water run-off
- reducing demand on town water supply, therefore reducing need for new dams
- protecting remaining environmental flows in rivers
- reducing infrastructure operating costs, and reducing energy used in pumping water, thereby lowering greenhouse gas emissions
- *rainwater is not bound by restrictions*

### Rebates

The Ipswich City Council and Queensland Government can provide financial support for those wanting to install rainwater tanks.

#### Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme

State initiative providing a range of rebates to encourage greater water efficiency and sustainability in Queensland homes. Contact the Department of Natural Resources and Water on 1800 243 585 or visit them at [www.nrw.qld.gov.au/water/saverscheme/index/html](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/water/saverscheme/index/html)

#### Council Water Conservation Rebate Scheme

Council initiative offering rebates for the purchase of water efficient and water saving devices for Ipswich residents. For more information visit Ipswich Water at [www.ipswichwater.com.au](http://www.ipswichwater.com.au) or call us on (07) 3810 7855.





## Maintaining your rainwater tank

Regular maintenance of your rainwater tank system means it will work better and last longer, allowing you to get the most out of your investment. Preventing problems before they arise will save you time, money and water.

### Keeping contaminants out of your system

- keep roof clear of large overhanging vegetation
- regularly check and maintain gutters, roof catchments and tank screens
- cover and thoroughly screen or guard tanks to exclude contamination
- check tank regularly for faults (inside and outside)
- open and clean out first flush devices after every rainfall event
- check inlet and overflow screens are securely in place, in good condition and regularly cleaned
- replace cartridges in water filters and chemicals or components in water treatment units strictly according to the manufacturer's instructions
- check your tank for sludge at least every 2-3 years
- if sludge is covering the bottom of your tank, remove it by siphoning it out or completely emptying your tank (contact a professional tank cleaner if you're unsure). Excessive sludge build up is a sign of inadequate roof and gutter maintenance.

## Avoiding mosquitoes – maintenance for you and your family's health

Rainwater systems and generally moist conditions can provide attractive breeding grounds for mosquitoes. You can avoid mosquito problems in your tank by taking a few simple steps:

- install mosquito-proof screens and guards
- ensure water doesn't pool on the tank lid
- fit downpipes to underside of the gutter to avoid creating a 'lip' at the junction which can trap debris and water.

Safely destroy any mosquito larvae inside the tank by adding a small amount of liquid paraffin or edible kitchen oil to form a thin film on the water surface. This starves the larvae of oxygen and stops any hatched mosquitoes flying off. Investigate how mosquitoes got into the tank in the first place and seal off the entry route to avoid future problems.

For more information relating to mosquito concerns, please contact Council on (07) 3810 6666. Alternatively, for more information on rainwater tank maintenance and rebates, visit Ipswich Water at [www.ipswichwater.com.au](http://www.ipswichwater.com.au) or contact us on (07) 3810 7855.

