

Terms and Conditions for Sydney Water's Rainwater Tank Rebate Program

The following terms and conditions apply to Sydney Water's Rainwater Tank Rebate Program. The applicant should read them carefully before signing the application form.

1. Application

Any application for a rebate must be submitted on an 'Application for a Rainwater Tank Rebate' form and must be approved by Sydney Water before a rebate can be issued. The application must be completed in full and have original receipts for the purchase and installation of the rainwater tank(s) attached.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for the rebate the applicant must be an owner of the property where the tank is installed, complete an 'Application for a Rainwater Tank rebate' form and attach the original receipt(s). The receipt(s) must be in the applicant's name. Sydney Water must receive the application no later than 5.00pm on 30 June 2009. The applicant must have installed a rainwater tank(s) that:

- a. was purchased on or after 1 July 2007 and by 30 June 2009 to qualify for the increased rebate or from 20 October 2002 to 18 October 2006 to qualify for the previous rebate of up to \$650 or from 19 October 2006 to 30 June 2007 to qualify for the previous rebate of up to \$800
- b. has a minimum total capacity of 2,000 litres (note: this capacity must be reserved for rainwater only and excludes any capacity reserved for drinking water top-ups)
- c. is (are) located on the same property (where there are multiple tanks)
- d. is new
- e. is on land that has an authorised or approved connection to a water main owned by Sydney Water
- f. is used solely for the collection and storage of rainwater for use on the site (rainwater is water collected from roof guttering and downpipes)
- g. meets all relevant standards, building codes, backflow prevention, Sydney Water and local council requirements
- h. is covered by a minimum 12 month warranty
- i. has all associated plumbing work completed by a licensed plumber
- j. was installed and paid for in full by 30 July 2009
- k. is not a stormwater retention tank(s) that is designed only for stormwater management. This type of tank(s) is not eligible for the rebate. Rainwater tank(s) that store water solely for firefighting purposes are also ineligible.

3. BASIX

A rebate will not be paid to any applicant who was required to install a rainwater tank, or make a connection to a toilet or washing machine, to satisfy a BASIX commitment unless the BASIX certificate was issued on or before 31 December 2004. If your BASIX certificate was issued after 31 December 2004, a rebate will not be issued.

4. Backflow prevention

The NSW Code of Practice for Plumbing and Drainage requires that all properties with a rainwater tank must have a backflow prevention device on the property's boundary, regardless of whether the tank has a permanent connection to the water supply. Sydney Water will not issue a rebate until this requirement has been satisfied. To assist customers to comply with this requirement Sydney Water will provide a water meter with a backflow prevention device for most residential customers with a standard 20 or 25 mm water meter. Sydney Water cannot provide this assistance if reasonable access to the meter cannot be obtained for exchange ("reasonable" is at the sole discretion of Sydney Water).

Applicants with properties where the size of the water meter is more than 25mm, regardless of whether the rainwater tank is installed above or below ground, will be responsible for the installation of an appropriate backflow prevention device, which must be fitted by a licensed plumber. This may be the case with some medium density or high rise properties. If unsure of the size of your meter, phone Sydney Water on 13 20 92.

Above ground tanks

- a. Where the rainwater tank is installed above ground with no interconnection (or cross connection) between the rainwater tank service and the water service supplied from a Sydney Water main, no additional backflow prevention is required.
- b. Where the rainwater tank is installed above ground with **an interconnection** (or cross connection) between the rainwater tank service and the water service supplied from a Sydney Water main the applicant is responsible for the installation of an additional appropriate backflow prevention device at their expense. Your licensed plumber should provide advice about the type of backflow prevention required. In this case, a rebate will not be paid until the backflow prevention device has been installed by a licensed plumber and a permit and Certificate of Compliance have been supplied to Sydney Water.

Below ground tanks

- a. Where the rainwater tank is installed **below ground** or on an industrial or commercial property, the applicant is responsible for the installation of an appropriate testable backflow prevention device at the property boundary at their expense, which must be fitted by a licensed plumber. In these cases, a rebate will not be paid until the backflow prevention device has been fitted and the plumber has supplied a permit, Certificate of Compliance and a Backflow Prevention Maintenance and Test Report to Sydney Water.
- b. Where the rainwater tank is installed **below ground** or on an industrial or commercial property with **an interconnection** (or cross connection) between the rainwater tank service and the water service supplied from a Sydney Water main, the applicant is responsible for the installation of an additional backflow prevention device at their expense, which must be fitted by a licensed plumber. This may be another testable backflow prevention device or a physical air gap. Your licensed plumber should provide advice about the type of backflow prevention required. In this case, a rebate will not be paid until both backflow prevention devices have been installed and the plumber has supplied a permit, Certificate of Compliance and Backflow Prevention Maintenance and Test reports to Sydney Water.

Other applicants with properties where

- a. there is no water meter on the property (this includes properties that share a water meter with other dwellings) will be required to engage a licensed plumber to undertake the appropriate plumbing work to qualify for the rebate. This will need to be an accessible location for Sydney Water to install a standard 20mm or 25mm meter with integral dual check valves. Alternatively, the applicant will be required to engage a licensed plumber to install a separate backflow prevention device at the property boundary to qualify for a rebate. The meter installation will be provided free of charge but all other work will be at the customer's expense.
- b. the water meter is inaccessible, will be required to engage a licensed plumber to install a backflow prevention device at the property boundary at the customer's expense or make their water meter accessible. An accessible meter has a clear space of at least 300mm around and 1200mm above it.

5. Initial inspection

Sydney Water may need to inspect the rainwater tank at least once before any rebate is issued. If the applicant fails the first inspection, any additional inspections will be at the sole discretion of Sydney Water. Sydney Water may choose not to pay the rebate if the applicant fails the first inspection.

6. Ongoing operation of tank

The rainwater tank must operate on the property for a period of five (5) years after installation. On provision of reasonable notice from Sydney Water, the property owner will allow Sydney Water access to the rainwater tank to conduct audits to ensure its continued operation.

7. Research

For the first five (5) years after installation, rebate recipients may be asked to participate in Sydney Water research about rainwater tanks.

8. Sole rebate

Sydney Water will only issue one (1) rebate payment per property.

9. Refund of rebate

Applicants will be required to repay the rebate if any of these terms and conditions are found to have been breached in the first five (5) years after installation of the rainwater tank.

10. Program changes

Sydney Water reserves the right, at its sole and absolute discretion and at any time, to change any or all of the terms and conditions for the rebate program or to cancel the rebate program before 30 June 2009. Applications must be received by Sydney Water before any published termination date for the rebate program. The terms and conditions are available on Sydney Water's website.

11. Liability

The applicant(s) acknowledges and agrees that as far as the law permits, Sydney Water accepts no liability in respect to any claim, cause of action or loss or damage arising out of, or in relation to, any rainwater tank, rainwater tank system or the consumption of any water from such rainwater tank or system that is the subject of funding assistance. The applicant(s) agrees that they will indemnify, and keep indemnified, Sydney Water from any claim or liability arising out of, or in relation to, the rainwater tank system that is the subject of this application to the extent that any claim or liability is not caused by Sydney Water's negligence or breach of this application or any other term implied by law.

12. Payment

Payment of approved rebates will be by cheque and made payable to the property owner(s).

13. Privacy notice

In accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIP Act) Sydney Water collects and manages the personal information you provide. Information collected by Sydney Water may be disclosed to the Department of Planning and/or the relevant local council. Provision of this information is voluntary. However Sydney Water will not issue a rebate to an applicant who refuses to provide information or agree to the disclosure of their details to the above agencies. If the information provided by the Department of Planning and/or councils indicates that you are not eligible, Sydney Water will not pay the rebate or will seek reimbursement of any rebate paid. For more information or enquiries about privacy or access to your information, contact the Privacy Coordinator by emailing privacy@sydneywater.com.au or writing to:

The Privacy Coordinator

Sydney Water, PO Box 53, Sydney South NSW 1235