

Rainwater tank rebate

Frequently asked questions

Q How is the rainwater tank rebate changing from 1 July 2007?

A From 1 July 2007, the rainwater tank rebate will increase from \$800 to \$1,500. Until 30 June 2009, customers will be able to receive a rebate of up to \$1,500 for installing a new rainwater tank in an existing home and connecting it to a washing machine and toilet.

The increase applies to internal connections made between the rainwater tank and your toilet and washing machine.

Q How is the new rebate structured?

A Depending on the size of the tank you install and whether a licensed plumber connects the tank to your washing machine and toilet, you can get a rebate of up to \$1,500.

There are two parts to the rebate:

1. A tank capacity rebate - for the size of your rainwater tank
2. An internal connection rebate - for connecting your rainwater tank to a toilet and/or washing machine.

The rebate for the tank capacity remains the same. The internal connection rebate has increased. The new internal connection rebate is for tanks bought and installed between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2009.

Tank(s) capacity	Rebate
2,000 – 3,999 litres	\$150
4,000 – 6,999 litres	\$400
7,000 litres and above	\$500
Internal connection	Rebate
Rainwater tank connected by a plumber to a toilet	Additional \$500
Rainwater tank connected by a plumber to a washing machine	Additional \$500
Rainwater tank connected by a plumber to a toilet and washing machine	Additional \$1,000

Q What's the difference between the old rebate and the new one?

A The only change is an increased internal connection rebate for connecting your rainwater tank to your toilet and/or washing machine.

With the new rebate structure you will receive up to \$500 in addition to the tank capacity rebate if you connect your new rainwater tank to a toilet or washing machine. If you connect to both the toilet **and** washing machine you will receive up to \$1,000 in addition to the tank capacity rebate.

Q If I connect the rainwater tank to two toilets, do I receive an internal connection rebate of \$1,000?

A No, if you connect your rainwater tank to a washing machine **or** toilet, you will receive a total internal connection rebate of \$500. To receive the full internal connection rebate of \$1,000 you need to connect your rainwater tank to both a washing machine **and** a toilet.

Q I installed a rainwater tank before 1 July 2007 but didn't apply for a rebate. If I apply for a rebate now, am I eligible for the new internal connection rebate?

A No, tanks must be bought on or after 1 July 2007 to be eligible for the new internal connection rebate.

If you bought your tank between 20 October 2002 and 30 June 2007, you are still eligible for the previous rebate amount of up to \$800.

Provided you meet the other terms and conditions of the program you are eligible for a the following rebate amounts:

1. A tank capacity rebate – for the size of your rainwater tank, up to \$500
2. An internal connection rebate – for connecting your rainwater tank to a toilet, washing machine or both, of up to \$150 if the connections were made between 20 October 2002 and 18 October 2006; Or \$300 for connections made between 19 October 2006 and 30 June 2007.

Q I installed a rainwater tank and sent in a rebate application before 1 July 2007. However, I have not yet received my rebate cheque. Does this mean my rebate cheque will include the new rebate amounts?

A No, the new rebate amounts only apply to tanks bought on or after 1 July 2007. Your rebate cheque will be for the previous rebate amounts.

Q I installed a tank before 1 July 2007 and applied for a rebate, but did not connect it to my toilet or washing machine. Can I receive the new internal connection rebate if I connect my tank to my toilet or washing machine after 1 July 2007?

A No. Tanks must be bought on or after 1 July 2007 to be eligible for the new internal connection rebate.

If you have already applied for a rainwater tank rebate you cannot apply for the internal connection rebates at a later date. Sydney Water can only issue one rebate per property.

Q I installed a tank before 1 July 2007 but didn't apply for a rebate. If I make an internal connection to my toilet and/or washing machine now, will I receive the new internal connection rebate?

A No, the new rebate only applies to customers who have purchased their rainwater tank(s) on or after 1 July 2007.

If you purchased your rainwater tank between 20 October 2002 and 30 June 2007, you are still eligible for the previous rebate amounts. If you make the internal connections to your toilet and/or washing machine before you submit your rebate application you can get an internal connection rebate of up to \$300.

If you have already applied for a rainwater tank rebate you cannot apply for the internal connection rebates at a later date. Sydney Water can only issue one rebate per property.

Q Who do I apply to for a rebate?

A Sydney Water will continue to administer and offer rebates for its customers within the Sydney, Illawarra and Blue Mountains areas.

If you are not a Sydney Water customer, contact the Climate Change fund on 1300 361 967 or at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/rebates to find out how to apply for a rainwater tank rebate.

Q How do I qualify for the rebate?

A To qualify, your rainwater tank(s) must:

- be paid for and installed between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2009
- have a total capacity of 2,000 litres or more
- meet the other terms and conditions of the program.

Q How long is the rebate available for?

A The rebate is available until 30 June 2009. This is consistent with the Climate Change Fund Rebate Program.

Q How do I apply for a rebate?

A To apply for a rebate you will need to:

- read the terms and conditions of the rebate offer. These can be found on the Sydney Water website at www.sydneywater.com.au > Saving Water > In Your Garden > Rainwater Tanks > Rebates.
- complete an 'Application for a Rainwater Tank Rebate' form. This can be found on the Sydney Water website at www.sydneywater.com.au > Saving Water > In Your Garden > Rainwater Tanks > Rebates.
- attach the original receipt(s) for the tank and installation to the completed application form.

Send your completed application form and original receipt(s) to:

Sydney Water Rainwater Tank Rebate Program

PO Box 17

Wollongong NSW 2520

Sydney Water must receive your application no later than 5.00pm on 30 June 2009.

Q Is there a limit to the number of rebates I can apply for?

A Yes, Sydney Water will only issue one rebate per property. If you buy additional tanks or make an internal connection at a later date, you are not entitled to another rebate.

Q Where do I buy a rainwater tank?

A Check the Yellow Pages under 'tanks and tank equipment' to find a rainwater tank supplier who may be able to help you.

Q Do I need a licensed plumber to install my rainwater tank?

A Yes, if you intend to use the Sydney Water supply to top up your tank or connect the tank to a toilet and/or washing machine. Your plumber must follow Sydney Water's requirements and ensure all plumbing and drainage is in accordance with the NSW Code of Practice for Plumbing and Drainage. The plumber will also need to complete section three of your rainwater tank rebate application form.

If you are only using the tank water for external uses, and do not top up the tank from the Sydney Water supply, you do not need a licensed plumber to install your tank.

Q What happens if my property is subject to BASIX?

A If you have installed a rainwater tank to meet BASIX requirements and you have a BASIX certificate dated after 31

December 2004, you are not eligible for a rebate.

If your BASIX certificate was issued on or before to 31 December 2004, you can still apply for a rebate, provided you meet all other terms and conditions of the rainwater tank rebate program. This is consistent with the Climate Change Fund Rebate Program.

Q Do the mandatory restrictions apply to rainwater tank use?

A If your rainwater tank is topped up by drinking water from the Sydney Water supply, then mandatory restrictions still apply.

If your rainwater tank is not topped up by drinking water from the Sydney Water supply, mandatory restrictions do not apply.

Q Where can I find more information about rainwater tanks?

A For more information visit Sydney Water's website: www.sydneywater.com.au.

Q What is the Climate Change Fund?

A The NSW Government's \$310 million Climate Change Fund has been established to help businesses, households and government save energy and water.

It includes \$100 million for rebates to help householders make their homes more water and energy efficient. As well as rebates for rainwater tanks, the program will provide rebates for ceiling insulation and energy-efficient hot water systems. For more information about the Climate Change Fund and other rebates visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au 30 June 2009. This is consistent with the Climate Change Fund Rebate Program.