

Residential low-impact stormwater assessment

Do you stop most of the stormwater leaving your property?

If you store and re-use most of the stormwater around your home, you may be assessed as a 'low impact stormwater property' and be eligible for a discount on stormwater charges that you pay to Sydney Water.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is runoff from rain that falls on roofs, roads and open spaces. This runoff flows into street drains owned by local councils and then into much larger pipes or channels called "trunk drains" which makes their way to creeks, rivers, lakes and the ocean.

Who manages your stormwater?

Both Sydney Water and local council manage stormwater. Check our [stormwater catchment map](#) to find out if your property is in one of our stormwater areas. If you live in an area where Sydney Water manages stormwater you will see a stormwater change on your bill.

What's the discount?

If you qualify as a low-impact stormwater property, instead of paying \$22.23 for your stormwater charge each quarter, you'll pay just \$7.11. This is the same as the apartments or strata units charge.

If you're already paying the strata unit charge, there's no need to apply for a discount.

How do you qualify?

You must stop most of the stormwater leaving your property by storing and re-using it around your home.

There are many ways you can do this. Some examples include installing:

- a large rainwater tank that collects all your roof water and connecting it to your toilets, washing machine and hot water system. You may need council approval to connect your tank to your hot water system
- an infiltration system or raingarden that stops stormwater leaving your property
- permeable surfaces for paths and driveways.

We use information you provide about your property and additional information about hard surfaces and local soils to assess your application as a low impact property.

Who can apply?

You can apply if you:

- own a house and pay us a stormwater charge for it
- stop most of the stormwater leaving your property
- store and re-use most of the stormwater on your property.

If your house was built under the Building and Sustainability Index (BASIX), you can only apply if you've added extra systems to stop stormwater leaving your property. A standard BASIX home doesn't store and use enough stormwater to be eligible.

If you live in a strata unit, you don't need to apply as you already pay the discounted price.

Who can't apply?

You can't apply if:

- you live in the Rouse Hill area. Your area has its own water cycle management program
- you don't live in a catchment where Sydney Water manages stormwater.

How do you apply?

Complete the attached application form to tell us how you stop most of the stormwater leaving your property by storing and re-using it.

We'll ask you for some measurements when you apply so it's a good idea to gather information about the size of your property and hard surfaces using mapping tools like SIX Maps, [SIX Maps \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.sixmaps.nsw.gov.au)

What happens next?

If your property is eligible for a discount, we'll assess your application. We may contact you for further information if something is unclear, otherwise we'll let you know the outcome.

We will not assess properties that are not eligible for the discount.

Application form

Your details

Please tell us about you	
Your name	
Your property address	
Your account number – on your bill	
Your best contact number	
Your email	

Your property details

Please tell us about your property	
Your stormwater catchment area	
What is the total property area (m ²)?	
What is the total roof area (m ²)?	
What is the total hard surface area (m ²)?	
What is the total soft surface area (m ²)?	
Comments	

Your rainwater tank(s) details

Rainwater tanks capture rain which reduces the volume of stormwater runoff that enters our network and waterways. You can tell which part of the roof drains to the down pipes that go into your tank(s), and measure the area with online mapping tools, [SIX Maps \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.sixmaps.com.au).

Please tell us about your tanks(s)	Tank 1	Tank 2	Tank 3
What is the tank capacity (typically 3,000 - 5,000 litres)?			

What is the roof area that drains to this tank (m ²)?			
What area of the garden do you water from this tank (typically 0 – 200 m ²)?			
Do you have toilets connected to this tank?			
Do you have a washing machine connected to this tank?			
Do you have a hot water system connected to this tank?			
How many people use or benefit from this tank? – using water for toilet flushing, laundry, hot water for showers.			
Do you use this tank for anything else?			
Comments			

Your infiltration system(s) details

An infiltration system is an area of lawn or garden that allows stormwater runoff from hard surfaces to soak into the ground. This reduces the impact of runoff from hard surfaces such as driveways and roofs. Sometimes an infiltration system may also include a raingarden where water can pond on the surface and/or be stored and cleaned below the ground as it moves through soil or gravel.

Please tell us how many infiltration systems you have	
<p>What type of infiltration system do you have? Please fill in A or B below.</p> <p>Please add comments to describe your system in as much detail as possible. If available, you can also send copies of any design drawings or photos.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infiltration system with lawn/garden only (A) • Infiltration system with raingarden (B) • Infiltration system with underground empty trench (B) • Infiltration system with underground gravel filled trench (B)
<p>A) Infiltration system with lawn/garden only (system where very little ponding of water occurs on the surface and no designed drainage below the surface – like a gravel trench)</p>	
What is the size of the hard surface area that drains to this system (m ²)?	

What is the size of the lawn/garden (m ²)?	
B) Infiltration system with raingarden	
What is the size of the hard surface area that drains to this system (m ²)?	
What is the size of the lawn/garden (m ²)? – if larger than the raingarden area	
What is the size of the raingarden (m ²)?	
Depth of any surface ponding (m)	
How deep (below ground) is the raingarden (m)?	
How is the raingarden lined?	<input type="checkbox"/> Fully lined <input type="checkbox"/> Not lined <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Comments	

Declaration

By submitting this application, you declare that the information you've provided is accurate and correct.

Send it back

Complete this form and email it to: lowimpacthomes@sydneywater.com.au

Can't email?

Post to:

Sydney Water
 Customer Services
 PO Box 399
 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124