



Australian Government

WATER
for the **FUTURE**



**National Rainwater and
Greywater Initiative:
Household Rebate
Guidelines**

National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative: Household Rebate Guidelines

The National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative offers household rebates of up to \$500 for new rainwater tanks or greywater systems purchased after 30 January 2009. Applications for rebates will only be accepted from 1 March 2009.

Subject to the eligibility criteria below, rebates are available for either:

- the purchase and installation of a new rainwater tank which is connected for internal reuse of the water for toilet and/or laundry use ('plumbed in');

OR

- the purchase and installation of a permanent greywater treatment system, as defined below.

The rebates are being administered for the Australian Government by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.



Rainwater tank

Applicant and Dwelling Eligibility

To be eligible to obtain a rebate:

- the applicant must:
 - be the owner of the dwelling where the rainwater tank or greywater system has been installed;
 - be the purchaser of the rainwater tank or greywater system; and
 - submit the completed application form and a copy of the proof of purchase (i.e. a receipt) within six (6) months of the date of purchase of the rainwater tank or greywater system.
- the dwelling where the rainwater tank or greywater system has been installed must:
 - be an existing dwelling (not under construction);
 - not have had a rebate claimed through this program before;
 - be a principal place of residence that is not owned by a government authority; and
 - be connected to mains water supply.
- the rainwater tank or greywater system must:
 - be installed by a licensed plumber;
 - be brand new (i.e. not second hand) and purchased after 30 January 2009;
 - be plumbed in;
 - meet relevant standards and government requirements such as local building restrictions and regulations; and
 - be fully operational.

Final decisions regarding rebate eligibility will be made by the Australian Government.

Further information can be obtained from www.environment.gov.au/water or by calling **1800 808 571**.

Rebate Schedule

The following rebates are available:

Rainwater tank(s) capacity* — must be plumbed in for indoor water use by a licensed plumber	Rebate
2,000 litres – 3,999 litres	\$400
4,000 litres or larger	\$500

* The minimum capacity may be reached by installing two or more smaller tanks

Greywater system — must be installed by a licensed plumber	Rebate
Permanent greywater treatment system	\$500

Definitions

The following definitions are applied for the purpose of the rebate program.

Rainwater Tank: any rainwater storage device that meets Australian Standards and stores collected rainwater, either above or below ground, in a tank, bladder or other water storage system. Rainwater tanks can be made of steel, fibreglass, polyethylene, concrete, PVC/geotextile or other materials. For the purpose of this program the tank or tanks are required to be plumbed back into the house in order to be eligible for the rebate. To receive the rebate the tank or tanks need to have a minimum storage capacity of 2000 litres.

Greywater treatment system: a system that collects, treats and disinfects greywater generated from a household. These systems usually include primary treatment in the form of a grease trap and coarse filter and a secondary aerobic treatment and disinfection. The input to the system needs to be permanently connected to the dwelling and the output needs to be plumbed back in to the house and/or to a sub-surface irrigation system.

Plumbing in: permanent connection, installed by a licensed plumber, of a rainwater tank or greywater system to indoor plumbing for toilet and/or laundry or, in the case of a greywater treatment system, to a sub-surface irrigation system (and/or indoor plumbing for toilet and/or laundry if allowed under state or territory plumbing regulations). As a minimum the indoor plumbing needs to supply water to a toilet system or laundry.

Rebate application process

To claim a rebate the applicant must complete, sign and submit an application form with a copy of proof of purchase for the rainwater tank or greywater system.

A licensed plumber is required to install the rainwater tank or greywater system, and must certify the following on the application form:

- size of rainwater tank(s) (if applicable);
- that the greywater treatment system is of an eligible type (if applicable);
- that the rainwater tank or greywater system meets all relevant standards and government requirements; and
- that the rainwater tank or greywater system is plumbed in and fully operational.

Applicants are required to provide evidence to support claims made on the application form if requested. The Department will conduct a random audit of eligibility for rebate recipients.

The applicant should allow 8 weeks for the application to be processed.

Important notices

The Department may cease or amend the program at any stage. It is expected that applications will not be accepted after 31 March 2014.

The information contained in these Guidelines forms the eligibility criteria for the program. In order to qualify for a rebate, applicants must fully comply with all the eligibility requirements.

Rebates will **not** be eligible where:

- the dwelling where the rainwater tank or greywater system is installed is owned by a state, territory or Commonwealth authority; or
- a rebate under the National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative has previously been paid for that residential property (i.e. it is one rebate per property).

Owners of a strata title dwelling within a body corporate or retirement village are eligible to claim a rebate for a rainwater tank or greywater system installed at their individual place of residence, but the body corporate or management may not claim a rebate for a rainwater tank or greywater system installed on common property.

Applicants should not assume that they will receive a rebate on submitting an application. The Department will decide whether an applicant satisfies the eligibility requirements as set out in these Guidelines and reserves the right to request further information to make this decision.

The Department may require the applicant to present reasonable evidence to support their application for the rebate. Requests from the Department for further evidence may be made after the payment of the rebate but not later than twenty four (24) months after the payment. This may include allowing an authorised inspector access to the property to inspect the installation of the new rainwater tank(s) or greywater system.

The most suitable rainwater tank or greywater system for each residence will depend on individual circumstances and local/state/territory government requirements. The yield of each tank or system will depend on a range of factors including rainfall, roof size, garden characteristics and number of people in the household. Location-specific needs should be taken into account and applicants should consider obtaining external advice.

The Department accepts no liability for any loss, damage or injury incurred as a result of, or arising from, the installation or use of a system which has been the subject of a rebate application, or the application process.

All property owners and occupiers are responsible for the quality of water collected, contained and supplied from any rainwater tank or greywater system located on the property and for the appropriate cleaning and ongoing maintenance of all private infrastructure on the property, including the rainwater tank or greywater system and all associated pipes, fittings and fixtures.

Personal information collected under this program will only be used for the purpose of assessing applications and related purposes. This process may include the exchange of information with other government departments or agencies for compliance purposes, and/or reporting publicly on the performance of the rebate program. Reports will be based on aggregate data and personal information will not be identifiable in such reports. Information will be used for the payment of the rebate to successful applicants.

The Department reserves the right to change the rebate amount or any other aspect of the guidelines.

Images:

Front cover — House and water tank: DEWHA

Inside spread — Rainwater tank: M. McAulay & DEWHA

4. Declarations, Your Responsibility and Your Right to Privacy

As a Commonwealth agency, the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts is bound by the *Privacy Act 1988*. Personal information collected under this program will only be used for the purpose of assessing applications and related purposes. This process may include the exchange of information with other government departments or agencies for compliance purposes, and/or reporting publicly on the performance of the rebate program. Reports will be based on aggregate data and personal information will not be identifiable in such reports. Information will be used for the payment of the rebate to successful applicants.

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts reserves the right to refuse any application if the information provided is incomplete or does not meet the required criteria. Providing false or misleading information is a serious offence and carries penalties under the *Criminal Code Act 1995*. An audit program is to be implemented.

- I certify that I have read and understood the National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative Household Rebate Guidelines and I meet all eligibility criteria.
- I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all of the details provided in this application (including that in the licensed plumber's declaration) are correct at the time of completing this form.
- I agree that I have and will provide the Australian Government with sufficient and reasonable evidence of my eligibility for the rebate if requested any time up to 24 months after installation. This may include allowing an authorised inspector access to my property to inspect the installation of my new rainwater tank or greywater system.

Applicant's signature:

X

Date:

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FORWARD COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM AND COPIES OF RECEIPTS TO:

Household Rainwater/Greywater Rebate
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

If you have any questions, please call 1800 808 571

5. Rainwater Tank/Greywater System Details (Licensed Plumber to complete)

The dwelling is connected to mains water supply:

Yes No

Rainwater tank(s) capacity:

Total capacity L

Rainwater tank(s) connected to:

Toilet/s
Washing machine

Greywater treatment system:

See program guidelines for definition

Make/model

Greywater system connected to:

Garden Sub-surface Irrigation System
Toilet/s
Washing machine

6. Licensed Plumber's Declaration

Plumber's name:

Company name:

Plumber's licence number:

Plumber's contact number:

State of registration:

- I certify that I have done the installation work required to connect the rainwater tank or greywater system in accordance with any applicable standards, regulations and guidelines.
- I certify that the rainwater tank/greywater system installed is eligible for the rebate and is fully operational.
- I certify that the information provided by me, including the tank capacity or type of system installed, is correct.

Signature:

X

Date:

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