

Rainwater Tank - Rebate Program

As our population grows, a key challenge for the Shoalhaven is to ensure a sustainable water supply for the future. The Best Practice Management Guidelines, acknowledges the need for a demand management initiative. This rebate is an initiative to reduce the demand on the potable water supply and gives the community the chance to conserve water at home and in the garden by installing rainwater tanks.

A rebate is available from Council for Shoalhaven Water customers who install a rainwater tank(s) on their property. This offer is available until 30 June 2009, subject to terms and conditions. The rebate is based on the total capacity of the tank(s) purchased regardless of the number of tanks. An additional rebate of \$150 if you connect your rainwater tank supply to your toilet and/or washing machine (this work must be performed by a licensed plumber). The tank must also comply with Council requirements for installation.

Rain water tank rebates may be available (one per property) to customers who install a rainwater tank on their property as detailed below:

<u>Total Tank(s) Capacity</u>	<u>Rebate</u>
2,000 – 3,999 litres	\$150 tank rebate
4,000 – 6,999 litres	\$400 tank rebate
7,000 + litres	\$500 tank rebate
Additional Plumbing Rebate:	\$150 for all tank capacities above 2,000 litres.

Fees and Charges

If plumbing is required to supply toilet and/or washing machine or connection to the potable water supply, approval is required under s68 of the Local Government Act 1993. Development and Environmental Services current fee structure (2008/09 financial year, as per fees & charges) is detailed below:

Tanks capacity	Connection to Potable supply or toilet/washing machine	Charge
Less than 10 000 L	No	No Charge
Less than 10 000 L	Yes	\$72 for s68 Approval
Greater than 10 000 L	No	\$110 for Development Application (approx.)
Greater than 10 000 L	Yes	\$182 = \$72 for s68 approval + \$110 for Development Application

Applying for your rebate

Stages to apply for a rebate:

Stage 1: Ensure Compliance of Rainwater tank installation

1. Read the terms and conditions of the rebate.
Fill in "Rainwater tank compliance checklist"
Forward to: Rainwater Tank Rebate Program Shoalhaven Water
PO Box 42
NOWRA NSW 2541
2. Wait for approval for location from Shoalhaven City Council.
3. Install your tank (Engage a licensed plumber if "Topping-up", cross-connecting or connecting to a toilet or washing machine)

Stage 2: Application for Rainwater tank rebate

1. Fill in your part of the attached application form. "Application for rainwater tank rebate"
2. Get your plumber (if you had plumbing work done) to fill in the relevant section of the form.
3. To ensure compliance of NSW plumbing regulations, if you have interconnected your tank to the toilet and/or washing machine, you must arrange to have your plumbing inspected by one of Council's officers, please phone 4429 3458 to arrange an inspection time.
4. To receive a rebate for the tank and installation, you must attach copies of receipt(s) to the rebate application and forward to council.

Forward to: Rainwater Tank Rebate Program
Shoalhaven Water
PO Box 42
NOWRA NSW 2541

Development Exclusions

a) BASIX Certificate

The Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) is a NSW Government initiative. It ensures that all new dwellings in NSW meet the target of 40% reduction in water consumption and a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Compliance with these targets is demonstrated through the completion of a BASIX assessment and the issuing of a BASIX Certificate.

Customers who are required to install a rainwater tank(s) to comply with BASIX and have a BASIX Certificate dated after 1 July 2005 are not eligible for a rainwater tank rebate.

b) Development Consent / Subdivision Requirement Exclusions

Customers who are required to install a rainwater tank in order to comply with a requirement or a condition within a development consent/ subdivision requirement are not eligible for a rainwater tank rebate.

Terms and Conditions for Shoalhaven Water's Rainwater Tank Rebate

The following terms and conditions apply; the applicant should read them carefully before signing the application form.

1. **Compliance**

Any installation of a rainwater tank must submit the "Rainwater tank compliance checklist" form to be checked by Council. The applicant will ensure through this process that the Rainwater tank installation will meet Council requirements.

2. **Application:**

Any application for a rebate must be submitted on an "Application for a rainwater tank rebate" form and must be approved by Shoalhaven Water before a rebate can be issued. The application must be completed and copies of receipt(s) for the purchase and installation of the rainwater tank(s) attached. To apply for the rebate the applicant must be an owner of the property where the tank is installed.

3. **Eligibility:**

To be eligible for a rebate the applicant must complete an "Application for a rainwater tank rebate" form; attach copies of receipt(s) which must be in the applicant's name. This must be received by Shoalhaven Water no later than 5.00pm on 30 June 2009. The applicant must have installed rainwater tank(s) that:

1. Is in accordance with the current NSW Code of Practice: Plumbing and Drainage.
2. Is on land that has an authorised approved connection to a water main owned by Shoalhaven Water.
3. Is not required to be installed in order to comply with a BASIX certificate on/or after 1 July 2005.
4. Is a new tank installation.
5. Is covered by a minimum 12 month warranty.
6. Has all associated plumbing work completed by a licensed plumber.
7. They have purchased on or after 20 February 2005 and was installed and paid in full by 30 June 2009.
8. Is used for the collection and storage of rainwater for site use only.
9. Has a minimum total capacity of 2,000 litres.
10. Is not required to be installed in order to comply with a requirement or a condition within a development consent/subdivision requirement.
11. Meets all relevant standards, building codes and Council requirements, including periodic inspection of rainwater re-use systems by Council's staff (or its Agents) to monitor the on-going compliance of the systems installed.

12. Is to operate on the property for a period of five (5) years after installation rebate recipients may be asked to participate in research during this time.
13. *Backflow prevention:* The requirements of backflow prevention may vary as a result of changes in the NSW code of Plumbing and Drainage.
14. *Initial inspection:* Council will need to inspect the rainwater tank at least once prior to any rebate being issued.
15. *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 Shoalhaven Water, the property owner will allow Shoalhaven Water access to the rainwater tank to conduct audits to ensure its continued operation.
16. *Research:* For the first five (5) years following installation, rebate recipients may be asked to participate in Shoalhaven Water research about rainwater tanks.
17. *Sole rebate:* Shoalhaven Water will only issue one (1) rebate cheque per property.
18. *Program changes:* Shoalhaven Water reserves the right, at its sole and absolute discretion and at any time, to change any or all of the terms and conditions of the rebate program prior to 30 June 2008. Applications must be received by Shoalhaven Water prior to any published termination date for the rebate program. Termination notification will appear in the Public Notices section of local newspaper(s).
19. Payment of approved rebates will be by cheque only and made payable to the property owner(s).
20. *Privacy notice:*

The information requested on this form is being collected by Council for administrative purposes associated with the particular information or service request. The information will be used solely by Council Officers for the purpose mentioned or a directly related purpose. The applicant understands this information is provided on a voluntary basis however if you do not provide, or do not wish to provide this information, Council may not be able to provide the service requested. You may apply to Council for access to or amendment of this information at any time.

Receiving your rebate

After receiving your completed application form and copies of receipt(s) and, subject to variation of your application details. We will send your rebate cheque within 30 days of approval of your rainwater tank rebate.

Further information

If you would like more information about selecting, using and maintaining rainwater tanks, you can obtain copies of our brochure "**A Guide to Rainwater Tanks**", or alternatively phone Shoalhaven Water on 02 4429 3214.