



Installing a Rainwater Tank?

A guide to getting a consent (or avoiding one)

There are many benefits to collecting rainwater from the roof of your property including being more water resilient in times of drought or emergency, saving money on your water bill, helping the environment as well as helping to reduce localised flooding and stormwater overflows.

This guide will help you through the process, from selecting a tank, through to post installation sign off, as well as providing information on tanks that do not require a building or resource consent.

Understanding your water use and why a consent might be required

Rainwater collected in a tank can be used for various activities in and around the home including outdoor uses like car washing and watering the garden, indoor non-drinking uses like toilet flushing and washing machines or for drinking water from the taps and showers.

How you intend to use the water you collect, and the size and placement of the tank, will determine if a building and/ or resource consent is required and if a Licensed Certifying Plumber needs to install the tank.

Building Consent: relates to matters such as structural stability, earthquake risks and safe drinking water. If you are planning to place your tank on a structure instead of the natural ground, or you plan to connect the tank to your internal plumbing you will need a building consent.

Resource Consent: relates to the Auckland Unitary Plan to ensure property development zone standards are met. If your tank is over 1m in height AND will be placed near a boundary line or water course, will obstruct a window or outdoor amenity area, or if you are in a Special Character or Historic Heritage area, you will most likely need a resource consent.



To find out if your rainwater tank will require a consent use the **'Do I need a consent?'** tool on Auckland Council's website www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/rainwatertank and answer the questions about your tank.

Applying for a Consent

- To encourage installation of rainwater tanks we have removed the fee for a resource consent for most applications. Our Healthy Waters department is also providing additional support and guidance if you require a resource consent for a rainwater tank only. Email enquiries and application forms to hwrainwatertank@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
- If you require a building consent, apply online at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz. A deposit will need to be paid when you lodge your application.

Once you have received your consent, or confirmation that consent is not required, you can order a tank and arrange installation.

Installing your tank

All rainwater tanks connected to household plumbing must be installed by a Licensed Certifying plumber (or an authorised person working under their supervision) to ensure installation complies with the building code and in case you need to make an insurance claim in the future. Even if your tank does not require building consent, it still needs to comply with the building code. A list of registered professionals can be found on the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board website – www.pgdb.co.nz

Costs to install will vary depending on the tank type, water use, location and additional services including pump, filters and wiring that may be required.

Sign off for completed work

If your tank requires a building consent, it will need to be signed off by Auckland Council once it is installed to certify the installation. An 'As-built' drawing will need to be supplied along with a producer statement from the Certifying plumber and/or drainlayer. Verification of the consented water tank will be added to your property file which is useful should you sell your property or if you make an insurance claim.

Tanks that do not require a Building or Resource Consent

To avoid the requirement for a Building Consent, all of the following criteria need to be met:

- Use your tank for outdoor use only and do NOT connect your tank to any internal plumbing
- Position your tank directly on the natural ground
- Label your tank to clearly mark that it is NOT for drinking

Resource consent requirements can vary depending on the property zone in which your tank is installed. Special Character or Historic Heritage zones have additional specific requirements, however some general rules to avoid a resource consent are:

- Place your tank at least 1m away from the from the side or rear boundary line (6m for Large Lot Zones)
- Do NOT place your tank between the house (building frontage) and the street boundary
- Do NOT place your tank in front of a window or in the designated Outdoor Living Space (This space is generally a minimum of 20m²)
- Ensure your tank is NOT positioned within 10m of a stream, 30m of a lake or 25m of the coast
- Ensure your tank discharge is clear from any septic tank effluent dispersal area and that the addition of a tank does not alter the location of stormwater discharge (this can be done by connecting the tank overflow to the drain for your roof downspout)
- Do NOT place your tank on steep slopes (26 degrees or greater) or unstable ground
- Do NOT remove vegetation, especially protected vegetation when installing your tank

Email any residential rainwater tank enquiries to: hwrainwatertank@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz