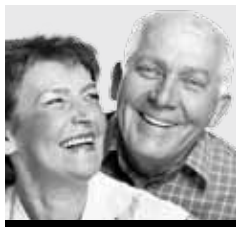


# Rain tanks & water meters



## ■ Water Supply Bylaw

To achieve more sustainable water supplies, Waikato District Council introduced the Water Supply Bylaw, effective from 1 December 2009. One of the aims of the bylaw is to encourage the storage of rainwater or non-drinking use.

A copy of the bylaw is available on Council's website [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz)



## ■ What's required

**A rain tank is required for all new premises that will:**

- Connect to a council water supply
- Have a floor area of at least 30m<sup>2</sup>
- Have a toilet or laundry.

All new connections to a council water supply will have a water meter. Town supply water will be billed based on the amount used.



## ■ Benefits

### Rain tank

Rain tanks are an important tool for reducing average water use. In most homes, toilet flushing and clothes washing account for around 50 per cent of the total water used.

By plumbing the rain tank to the toilet and laundry, rain water can replace nearly half of your annual water consumption.

### Water meter

Water meters are an important water conservation tool. They indicate how much water we use, particularly during summer when our water use is at its highest and rainfall is at its lowest.

## ■ What's optional

- The rain tank does not have to be plumbed into the house. However, if the rain tank is used to recycle water (for example, to flush toilets), a mains connection to the tank should be used as a backup in dry weather
- Collected rainwater can be used for potable supply (e.g. it is safe for drinking) provided Department of Health guidelines for roof supplies are followed

- Rain tanks are optional for modifications to an existing premise, including building consents that involve a new water connection.

## ■ Rural properties

The minimum tank size for rural properties connected to trickle feed is 22,000 litres.



# Rain Tanks & Water Meters



## ■ What if I have to have a stormwater attenuation tank?

It is possible to combine the rain tank and stormwater attenuation tank, but the volume of the tank needed is the sum of the two. The top part of the tank drains quickly to buffer storm flows and the bottom saves water for recycling.

## ■ How big does my tank need to be?

### Urban properties

The minimum tank size for urban properties is 5,000 litres. There is also a minimum roof area that must be connected to the tank. The required roof area depends on the number of bedrooms.

Bedrooms*	Minimum Connected Roof Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
1 Bedroom	40m <sup>2</sup>
2 Bedroom	50m <sup>2</sup>
3 Bedroom	85m <sup>2</sup>
4 Bedroom	105m <sup>2</sup>
5 Bedroom	150m <sup>2</sup>
6+ Bedrooms	190m <sup>2</sup>

\* Includes rooms that could be converted to bedrooms (e.g. office with wardrobe).

## ■ Does my rain tank need a consent?

**A rain tank will require a building consent if:**

- The tank will supply roof water to the house

- The council mains will be plumbed to the tank (e.g. backup supply)
- The tank exceeds 35,000 litres
- The tank exceeds 2,000 litres and is more than two metres above ground; or
- The tank exceeds 500 litres and is more than four metres above ground.

Unless the tank exceeds the size limits above, installing a rain tank for garden irrigation does not require a building consent.

These criteria apply to both new premises and retrofitting a tank to an existing property. If a consent is required, it can be included as part of the overall building consent.

## ■ What about commercial properties?

The bylaw is for all new premises and includes commercial properties. Refer to the technical guidelines on our website [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz) for more information.

As with residential properties, there is no requirement to connect the tank to the toilet/s and laundry, but not using the rainwater sends potential savings down the drain.

## ■ What if it's not practical?

Council will consider alternative designs on a case-by-case basis. The design will need to achieve a similar level of water saving as a complying rain tank would achieve when connected to any toilet/s and laundry.



Please contact us if you would like any further information

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