

Rainwater tanks

One of the most effective ways of conserving water is to install a rainwater tank. Using rainwater for your garden and toilet will reduce use of mains water by around 60% per year for the average Brisbane household.

Rainwater tanks are available in different sizes to suit different households. The Brisbane City Council is currently offering a rainwater tank rebate for Brisbane residents. The rebate is available if you purchase a tank between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005.

Benefits

If you use a rainwater tank, you'll save money on your water bills and help save the environment by:

- reducing demand on the city's mains water supply
- reducing stormwater run-off from your property
- reducing local erosion and flooding
- improving water quality in local waterways

Installing and using rainwater tanks benefits the whole city by reducing the size of water distribution pipes and the energy needed to operate water supply systems.

You can consider passive design principles not only when you are building a home but when you are renovating or looking to buy an existing home. For example, look at the home's position on the block and check if the roof is insulated.

If you are going to use passive design principles, consider Brisbane's climate conditions:

- in summer, breezes generally come from the north east and south east
- in summer, the sun rises south of east and sets south of west and reaches an altitude of 86° midsummer
- winter winds come from the south, south west and west
- winter sun rises north of east and sets north of west. It has a low altitude of 39° midwinter
- at all times of the year, there are high levels of Ultra Violet Radiation (UVR) which are harmful both directly and indirectly