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Easy Installation Guide

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Disclaimer

- *These instructions are provided as a guide to help you install your rainwater tank for use without connection to your home's internal plumbing.*
- *Brisbane Plastics Pty Ltd, trading as Q Tank, and any of its servants or agents, are not responsible for any actions you take in relation to these instructions.*
- *We cannot be held liable as you select to install the water tank at your own risk.*

Save money by installing your Q Tank yourself – follow our step-by-step guide to ensure your tank is installed to qualify for our 10 year guarantee.

If you want to connect your tank to your home’s internal plumbing (such as a toilet or washing machine), the connection must be completed by a licensed plumber.

Please read all instructions and check with your local council before you start for any specific requirements that need to be followed for installing your tank.

If you have any questions, please call Q Tank on (07) 3881 0208.

Safety information:

- Do not enter your tank.
- Follow the instructions supplied with your power tools for their usage.

Installing and maintaining your Q Tank

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A. Choosing where to locate your Q Tank

Consider these factors when choosing where to locate your Q Tank:

1. Near downpipe/s

- The easiest way to collect water into your tank is by locating it near your home’s downpipe/s. The closer the tank is to the supplying downpipe/s, the shorter the length of PVC pipe you need to carry the water.

2. Ensuring clearance

- Ensure that where you plan to locate your tank, the tank’s top will be lower than the bottom of the downpipe/s which will feed into it.

3. Flat base

- Your tank needs a solid, flat base to sit on. You may be able to use an area near the downpipe/s which is already concreted or paved, such as a pathway.
- The base for your tank needs to be wider than the tank itself to support the weight of the tank when full.
- If no existing base is available, you can easily create a concrete, paved, or compacted gravel base or buy or build a stand. (See ‘B. Preparing a base for your Q Tank’ for more information.)

4. Overflow

- Consider where you will direct the overflow from your tank. If you plan to connect it to the underground stormwater supply, locate the pipe and plan how you will connect the overflow to it. (See 'E. Managing overflow from your Q Tank' for more information.)

5. Connecting two or more tanks

- If you will have two or more tanks, they can be connected at the base by a flexible hose or pipe, and at the top via the overflow so they will increase and decrease in level equally.
- If connecting tanks, it's recommended to have the tanks level with each other to get maximum water storage.

B. Preparing a base for your Q Tank

If you need to prepare a base for your Q Tank, it's best to do it before your tank is delivered.

You can easily construct a base of your tank out of concrete, pavers, or compacted gravel, crusher dust or packing sand. You could also buy or build a tank stand.

Advice:

- Keep in mind the height of the tank – if you don't have enough clearance under the downpipe/s or eaves, you may need to construct your slab further away.
- If positioning the base against a wall of your house, include a very small slope away from the wall in the base so rainwater that falls on it will naturally flow away and not pool against the house.
- Check that no tree roots or other sharp objects are in the area which could break through the bottom of the tank.
- The water inside your tank weight approximately 1kg per litre – your tank's base must be able to support the weight of your tank when full.

Concrete base

- An ideal thickness of a concrete base is 10cm.
- When boxing up your base, make sure the base is up to 100mm wider than the tank.
- Use reinforcing mesh placed in the concrete to provide extra strength.
- The base will need approximately seven days to fully harden before placing a tank on it.

Compacted gravel, packing/bedding sand or crusher dust base

- Please note - this isn't preferable if the land the base will be on is not naturally flat.
- A compacted base should be about 30cm wider than the tank.
- Consider excavating the site of the base so when the material is laid down, it is the same height as the surrounding ground level.
- To make the base more stable and keep the materials in place, first lay down a boundary of pavers or wood (pine sleepers) – you could also use the edge of a concrete pathway as part of the boundary if available.

- If using sand, cover it with a layer of gravel so the sand won't be removed by rain or wind.
- Compact the materials to enhance their stability.

Tank stand

- Stands should be constructed with hardwood decking with gaps between the boards 25mm (1") or less.
- Ensure the stand's structure can support the weight of the tank when full.

C. Positioning your Q Tank

If you know where you want to locate your tank, and your base is ready, the Q Tank driver who delivers your tank will assist you to position it in place. If not, all you need to do is:

- Locate your tank's overflow – a hole cut in a vertical part of the tank's roof with a strainer fixed to it. Position the tank so the overflow is in the easiest location for how you plan to use it.
- Locate the outlets on your tank – position the tank so the outlets are easy to reach.

When your Q Tank is positioned where you want it, add approximately 2.5cm (1") of water to it to secure it in place.

D. Connecting your downpipe/s to your Q Tank

What you'll need to buy:

- PVC piping (90mm diameter)
- PVC elbows
- PVC connector/s
- PVC glue/cement
- PVC pipe holders (with anchor brackets)
- metal screws (self-tapping)
- sandpaper

Tools you'll use:

- tape measure
- spirit level
- ladder
- hacksaw
- drill
- screwdriver

Important: If you are installing a Leaf Eater Downpipe Rain Head or First Flush Diverter, installation instructions will be enclosed with the products. If you misplace them, please visit www.rainharvesting.com.au.

Advice:

- You'll be able to purchase all you need for the job from hardware or plumbing stores.
 - Buy a little more PVC pipe that you need in case you make any errors during the installation.
 - Having someone help you with the installation will make the job easier, faster and safer.
 - For a cleaner look, position the parts of the PVC with printing on them towards the wall so they're less visible.
1. Draw a plan of how you will connect the downpipe/s to the tank – calculate how much pipe, and how many elbows and connectors you'll need to buy.
 2. Once you've got your supplies, remove the downpipe by cutting it to uncover the metal flange inside.
 3. Before starting to glue the PVC parts together, measure, cut and click them together without glue to ensure you have all the parts you need. Then, you may find it useful to lay them out in position on the ground ready for easy gluing. Identify sections to connect together – for example, the top third of the plumbing might be a natural place to connect and install before connecting and installing the second third.
 4. Use sandpaper to smooth the edges of the pipes after cutting them.
 5. Select the pieces for one section, add glue to the joins and connect them quickly.
 6. Drill holes in the PVC connector to accommodate the self-tapping screws.
 7. Screw the holding bracket mounts to the wall near the flange on a very slight downwards angle, which allows the water to flow towards the tank. (Use your spirit level to check the angle.)
 8. Attach this section. Continue then to connect and attach the remaining sections.

E. Managing overflow from your Q Tank

When your tank is full, water is directed through the overflow to release the extra water and pressure entering the tank.

There are a few options for managing the overflow from your tank:

- **Fall from the overflow outlet onto the ground near the tank.** You could place a few rocks where the water lands to reduce the strength of its flow. With this approach, you should ensure that the pressure and volume of the overflow will not affect the strength of your tank's base. Attaching a piece of pipe or flexible hose to the overflow outlet, to direct the water away from the tanks base is recommended.
- **Direct it back into your stormwater system.** This could be by connecting the overflow back to the downpipe you have connected your tank to, or connecting the overflow directly into the underground stormwater pipes on your property. You can locate the stormwater pipes by starting at the bottom of a downpipe and digging carefully from there.
- **Direct it into another water tank or pool** through piping.

Piping your overflow to stormwater, another tank or pool

- Plan for and prepare your piping using the same guidelines in 'D. Connecting downpipe/s to your Q Tank'.
- Make a snug fitting of the piping to the overflow by using 90mm PVC pipe sections – no gluing is necessary.
- Provide support to the piping, such as running it down the wall of your tank instead of extending it out horizontally from your tank then downwards. This helps to reduce strain on the fittings and the tank.
- If your piping will run a long distance from the tank, consider using a piece of flexible pipe at the connection which will absorb movement in the piping.
- Connect two or more tanks at the base by a flexible hose or pipe, and at the top via the overflow so they will increase and decrease in level equally.

F. Connecting attachments to your Q Tank

Your Q Tank will be supplied with two threaded outlets already moulded into the tank. The threads do not protrude out from the tank so it is easily rolled into place.

A ball valve and tap fitting come supplied with your tank. You will be able to install the ball valve and tap fitting easily by matching their threads with the thread in the outlets. To ensure a good seal, apply some thread tape to the fittings before carefully screwing them into the outlets using a shifter or a spanner.

If you want to make additional outlets in your tank, call Q Tank on (07) 3881 0208 to discuss the products required to do this.

Installing a pump

If you buy a pump to connect to your Q Tank, installation instructions will be enclosed with the pump.

G. Testing your Q Tank

With just a few steps, you can inspect your tank and test that it is ready for use:

- Check that all of the tank's fittings, such as the leaf strainer, are correctly inserted and secured.
- When your tank fills with rain water, check the connections for any drips.

H. Maintaining your Q Tank

Tanks require little maintenance. Taking these steps regularly will ensure top performance from your tank:

- check and clean your gutters, roof and tank screen
- remove nearby tree branches which may drop leaves into the water catchment area
- check your tank for sludge every two to three years which may collect at the base, and have it cleaned if necessary.