

Fact Sheet

Rainwater and Septic Tank Replacement Program

Accredited Plumber

When installing a rainwater or septic tank, getting a condition report on your septic system or conducting any minor repairs or reconnections make sure you use an accredited plumber.

It is a legislative requirement under the Building Act 1993, and the Plumbing Regulations 2018, that any work associated with the installation of a rainwater or septic tank be carried out by a licensed and registered plumber. The reasons why legislation and regulations require an installation be completed by a plumber include:

- Ensuring suitable materials are used to connect the tank to associated pipes.
- Connection of appropriate filter and diversion mechanism.
- Ensuring appropriate connections and suitable locations are used.
- Ensuring appropriate connection to the stormwater system to manage any overflow.
- Ensuring appropriate jointing methods are used.
- Minimisation of risk associated with cross-connection to the mains water supply to prevent backflow.
- Connection of appropriate valves, pipes and pumps.

The work undertaken to meet these requirements must also be performed in accordance with the appropriate Australian Standard (AS 3500 - as referenced by the Plumbing Regulations) or certification.

A licensed and registered plumber also must hold and maintain the required insurance for the classes in which they are licensed. This insurance protects consumers when plumbing work is found to be defective.

Compliance Certificates

A compliance certificate must be included with the application if the total value of the product, materials and associated plumbing is \$750 or greater. Ask your plumber to supply you with a compliance certificate on completion of works.

A compliance certificate is proof that the work complies with prescribed plumbing services. Only licensed plumbers can issue a compliance certificate. Failure to meet these requirements creates a risk that tanks may not be installed correctly. Incorrectly installed tanks could lead to flooding of neighbouring properties.

Further Information

More information regarding accredited plumbers, compliance certificates and how to check your plumber's registration can be found on the building and plumbing regulator, the Victorian Building Authority's website:

- <https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/>

