

Siphoning Out Your Water Tank

Over time, water tanks can build up lots of sediments and organic matter on the tank floor. This material can affect the water that comes through your taps, making it look cloudy, taste unpleasant, and possibly cause illness.

If you have an above ground rainwater tank, it's easy to set up a siphon and clean out the bottom of your tank. This will help to keep your drinking water clean, clear and safe for everyone who uses it.



1) Start with a piece of flexible plastic tubing long enough to reach into your tank. Then fix an ordinary kitchen funnel to one end.



2) Fill the tube with water from a garden hose, making sure there are no air spaces present and the funnel is partially filled.



3) Block up the open end with a watertight seal and hold the funnel end vertical so the water stays contained in the tube.



4) If you are unable to enter the tank, attach the funnel to a long pole that you can manoeuvre through the tank opening.



5) When ready, plunge the funnel end into the tank water, then position the outside end in bucket and remove the stopper.



6) Water should begin to flow out the tank into the bucket, and you can now suck up any accumulated debris on the tank floor.

The best possible time to siphon your tank is when the water levels are already low, right before you order a refill. Refilling your tank without cleaning it simply stirs up the sludge and contaminates the fresh new water. For more information on cleaning your tank, as well as other tips for maintaining your water tank, visit:

www.gdc.govt.nz/services/cleanyourwatertank