



Bushfire Debris

Ash and debris on a roof should be removed and the first flush of water after a bushfire should not be collected. If material has been washed into the tank in sufficient quantities to affect taste or appearance of rainwater, the tank will need to be drained and cleaned, or alternatively the water could be used for non-potable purposes such as to the garden.

Tank De sludging

All tanks should be examined for the accumulation of sediments every 2-3 years, or if sediment is evident in the water flow.

Sludge can be removed by siphoning without emptying the tank. To do this, use an inverted funnel in the end of a hose and move it carefully across the bottom of the tank. The sludge, plus the lower portion of the water in the tank, can be released to waste.

If leaves and coarser debris are present in the sludge, a siphon hose of approximately 50mm diameter should be used.

Sludge may also be pumped from the tank with minimum loss of water by using a suitable motor-operated pump and attachments.

Finally, sludge can also be removed by draining and cleaning the tank. If a drain plug is provided at the base of the tank, water can be run to waste to discharge the sludge.

Once the tank is empty, the remaining sludge can be scooped up and removed through the access opening. Care should be taken not to disturb the protective film on the inside surface of the tank.

Tank cleaning businesses (generally listed in the telephone yellow pages) may also be available to de sludge tanks.

Tank Cleaning

Where cleaning necessitates entering the tank, take care to ensure adequate ventilation is provided and an additional person is in attendance.

Do not climb inside the tank unless you can be sure you have good ventilation. Enclosed spaces can quickly become hazardous.

It is important to check the structural condition of the water tank before choosing a method of cleaning. Cleaning should generally be limited to removing accumulated sediments, leaf litter, etc.

Rinse and lightly scrub the interior (walls and floor) with a diluted household bleach solution (according to directions on the label).

After cleaning, it is recommended that the internal walls and floor of the tank be rinsed with clean water. Rinse water and sediment should be run to waste.

Please contact the Latrobe City Council Recovery Office on 1800 017 777 for more information.