



# The Rain Harvesting Process

*For more details on the processes described below, go to our technical section*



*Rainwater is clean and pure when it falls from the sky.* A good collection system will deliver it as clean and pure as possible to your storage tank. Some things to consider when collecting your rainwater are.

## *Roof surface.*

Iron, Colorbond, Glazed or Cement tiles and Clay tiles are all suitable roof surfaces. If your rain water is intended for drinking you can check with the manufacturer of your roofing material for it's suitability.

## *Gutters.*

Pooling in your gutters will create a potential habitat for mosquitos to breed and can be an incubator for bacteria. Having the correct falls on your gutters (1:500) will reduce the risk of this happening and prolong the life of your gutters. Leaf screens on your gutters will stop the buildup of organic matter in your gutters and prevent tannin coloured rainwater. Fire proof leaf screen will give added fire protection in fire prone areas. Gutter outlets should always be mounted on the underside of the gutter to prevent any pooling caused by the buildup of sealant and the outlet itself.

## *Collection pipes.*

Leaf screening rain heads on your down pipes will direct leaves and any other organic material away from your down pipe system. After a period of no rain a first flush diverter will prevent the first, most contaminated rainwater from entering your storage tank. For the best water quality we recommended a 'dry' collection system as opposed a 'wet' system .



## *Rainwater storage.*

The selection of you storage tank will depend on many things. Some of which are: Do you want to supply your entire home/building or only part of it? How many occupants will be using the water? How much roof area can you collect from and what area do you have to work with to locate your tank? What type of material do you prefer the tank to be made from and are the aesthetics of the tank going to be an issue?



## *Supplying rainwater to your home/building*

There are a number of ways to deliver rainwater into your building. By far the most common method is to pump it in via an automatic pressure pump. The pump would usually be located close to the storage tank and draw the water from the tank approximately 300mm up from the bottom. This is above the sludge and anaerobic zone. The pump should be protected from the weather with a pump cover. Automatic switching can be fitted to change your water supply from rainwater to mains water when the tank level gets low. Another way to achieve constant supply is to install a mains water top up valve in the tank which will keep the tank water level just high enough to supply the pump. It is recommended that a sediment filter be installed to the system before it enters the building.



## *Maintaining your system*

To ensure the quality of your rainwater and the reliability of your system it is important to carry out regular cleaning and servicing to components such as gutters, rain heads, tanks, diverters, pumps and filters. It is good practice to do this before the first rains of the season. Aquaboss can provide a programmed maintenance service to suit your system.