

# Ask the Expert

Are your home's water tanks healthy?  
**Garry Stephenson** explains how to keep your rain water tanks in tip-top shape.

Reader question: *We've recently moved to Coatesville to a property with rain water tanks. In our previous home our water was from mains supply. What do we need to know about this type of water supply and how do we make sure our water remains clean and safe to drink?*

Garry answers: Well, as much as our company name is Healthy Water Tanks Ltd, we always recommend starting with your gutters. As your main water collection area it's vital that gutters are regularly checked to ensure they are free-flowing.

Moving on to your water tank, the next step is to ensure there are no access points for any rodents to enter your tank in search of water. All water tanks must have a lid and any other openings need to be covered too.

Now for the actual water tanks! If you don't know when the water tanks on your new property were last serviced, we can do a free inspection for you. Water tanks should be inspected annually and serviced every 12-18 months. We offer our clients a reminder service to keep on top of when tanks are due for cleaning. We offer two different services, a full service where the tank is completely drained and the interior scrubbed and vacuumed, then refilled with fresh water; and we offer a vacuum service, where the bottom of the tank

is vacuumed and your water is saved.

An inspection of the exterior of your water tanks should be done to check for cracks or leaks. When a full service is done we will always check your drained water tank for interior cracks. It's important that cracks are repaired as soon as possible to prevent further damage and water loss.

Another important area to check for any new home owner is the filter system for water entering the house. We find a lot of homes have a filter system perhaps at the kitchen tap, which certainly ensures drinking water and dish water is healthy, but what we recommend is a full house filtration system. This means the life of your appliances is prolonged, it means any tap in the house is safe to drink from, and it means the water you are showering or bathing in is also healthy. If you have young children like ours you'll know just how much bath water can be swallowed at bath time!

We often receive calls from homes where someone has become ill and they believe the water supply might be to blame. The first question is usually 'Can you test our water?' The answer is yes, we can arrange for your water to be tested. However, it is an expensive process and, realistically you are probably not going to want to continue using your water if you have concerns. A more cost



Garry Stephenson and Adam Rodewyk from Healthy Water Tanks Ltd

effective solution for customers who believe they are getting sick from their water is to completely drain and clean the water tank and refill it with fresh water. And, at the same time, follow the routine steps of checking your gutters, filters, and any access points where rodents may be getting in and causing contamination.

So that's water tank ownership in a nutshell. We are always happy to chat to home owners about their water supply and come out and talk you through your water set up – they are all unique! We are a one-stop shop when it comes to water tanks, we service and repair, and most of all we offer advice. Feel free to contact us, we're here to help.

Garry and Louise Stephenson





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