Project Cost Estimator

Materials Description	Quantity	Cost
Rainwater Tank		
Rain Head		
PVC Pipes		
PVC Bends/Connectors		
First Flush System		
Pump		
Ball Cock Tap		
PVC Adhesives		
Gutterguard Mesh		
Equipment		
Rake & Shovel		
Adjustable Wrench		
Drill/Driver		
Spirit Level		
Total		

All the above materials and equipment are available at all Magnet Mart Stores.

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Home Project

Magnet MART Home Warehouse

Install a Rainwater Tank



- Easy to follow step-by-step guide
- Important and handy tips
- Materials check list
- Project Cost Estimator

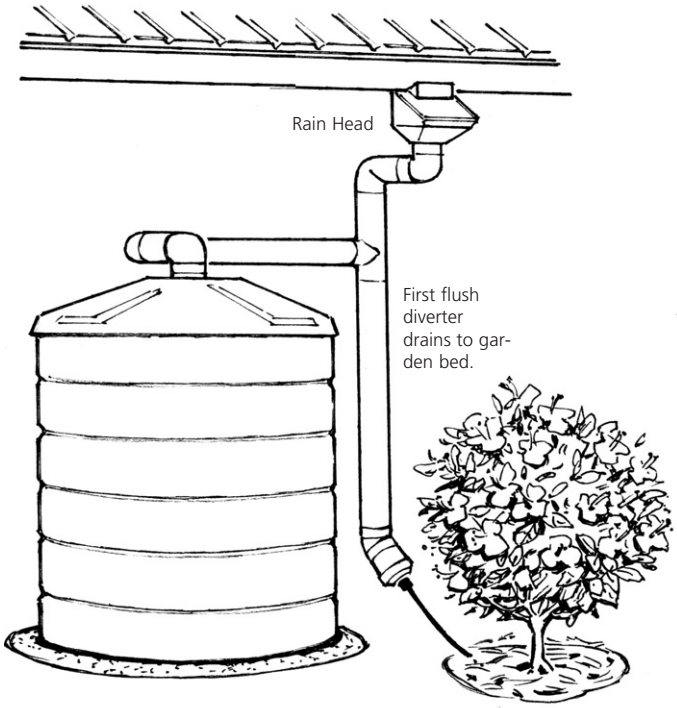
Before you start, please read through this pamphlet carefully and estimate and assemble all the materials you will need for the project and gather your tools and equipment together. Refer to the checklist and estimating form on the back panel of the pamphlet to assist in this preparation.

You Can Install a Rainwater Tank

Common Poly Tanks

Rainwater tanks can be made from galvanised steel, concrete or polyethylene (plastic). At Magnet Mart you will find a wide range of poly tanks that will suit most applications from large rural sizes through to under-eave tanks for the urban backyard.

This *Home Project* brochure will deal with installing the most common type of rainwater tank – the round poly tank. Please note that if you wish to connect your tank to internal plumbing such as a washing machine or toilet cistern, you will need to have the work performed by a licensed plumber.



A typical rainwater tank installation.

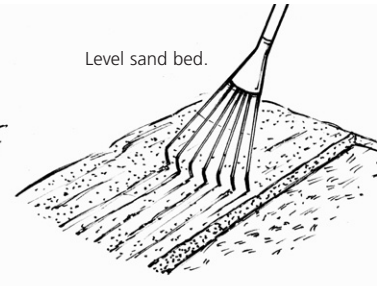
Tank & Site Selection

Selecting the right size tank depends on how you intend to use the collected water. For example, if you wish to use the water for outdoor gardens and washing the car a 2,000 litre tank would be adequate. If you intend connecting the tank to the household plumbing for toilet flushing or use in a washing machine, the minimum size recommended in urban areas is 5,000 litres.

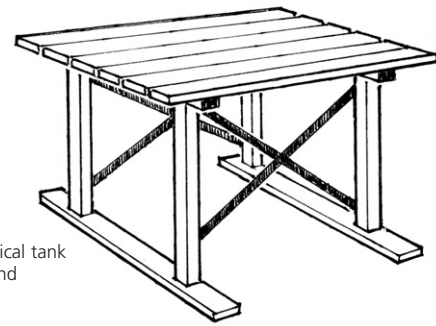
When siting the tank aim to place it on the southern side of the building as this will limit the amount of direct sunlight on the tank. Choose a site near an existing downpipe to make connecting the tank easier.

Site preparation for poly tanks is simply a matter of levelling an area and ensuring that no sharp rocks or projections remain near the surface immediately under the tank. Lay a 50mm thick bed of sand to ensure that the tank settles in level and the risk of rocks is decreased.





As an alternative, smaller tanks may be mounted on a tank stand. Magnet Mart can special order tank stands to suit a range of poly tanks or you can build one yourself from treated timber. A tank stand gives extra height for the outlet tap, providing higher water flow pressure and also allows for some garden storage space underneath.



Typical tank stand

Pigments - cement oxides are commonly used to colour the render and come in a wide range of colours to suit just about any décor. Achieving the correct colour is tricky, so try an experimental batch and record the proportions of the mixture for later use. Always let a sample mix dry completely so you can see the finished colour and keep the amount of oxide in a mixture to less than 10% of the mass of cement used.

Mixing the Render

You can do one of two things to achieve a good render mix - follow the recipe below and make your own, or buy a pre-mixed render product such as Melcann's Render-It and mix according to the instructions on the pack.

Assuming the wall is a standard brick or concrete block wall, the best render mixture is to measure by volume:
1 part cement, 1 part lime and 6 parts clean plasterer's sand.



Use a plastic bucket as your measure by filling to the very top and scraping away the excess material to leave the surface flat. Repeat for each ingredient until you have enough material to make a batch.

Wheelbarrow Mixing

Measure all dry ingredients in the barrow and mix with a shevil until a uniform colour is achieved. If you intend using a colouring pigment, add according to the manufacturer's instructions.

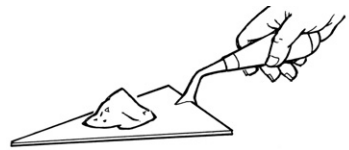
Mound the material and form a crater in the centre of the mound.



Add water slowly to the crater, turning the material into the centre with the shovel.

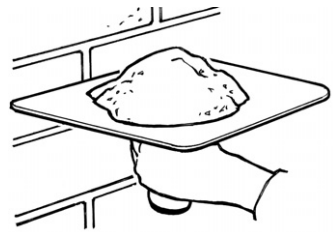
Once all the water is thoroughly mixed in, mound the material again and repeat the process until a stiff mix is achieved.

Test by scooping a quantity up on a trowel, if the mix sits up it is ready. If the mixture is too sloppy, the render coat will shrink and crack as it dries. Continue to turn the mixture over with the shovel for a couple of minutes to ensure all the sand is coated. Use the mixture immediately.



For larger projects, use a mechanical cement mixer. Read the manufacturer's instructions on how to use the cement mixer before you commence.

Load a quantity of render onto a plasterer's hawk or a piece of ply or cement sheet and hold against the wall surface.



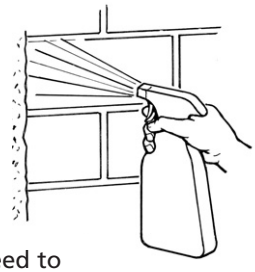
Using a steel plasterer's float, push some render onto the wall and spread across a small section to a thickness of around 10mm. Ensure the render is fully worked into the mortar joins between the bricks.



Continue this process until you have built up a covering of around 10mm thick over an area of 1 square metre. Your last strokes with the trowel should be smooth arcs.



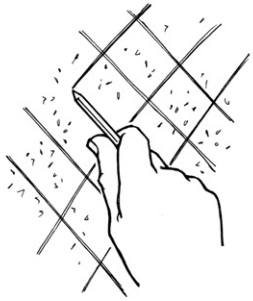
Take care around windows, vents and weepholes in the wall, do not cover them with render mix.
As you move across the wall, keep the surface damp with a water mist sprayed from a bottle. Render adheres best to damp, but not dripping bricks.



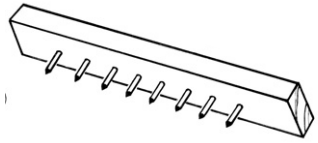
Usually, one coat of render is sufficient for most walls. In some circumstances you will need to add a second coat to cover imperfections or strong base colours.

Follow these steps to prepare for a second coating:

Wait for two hours after finishing the first coat of render, then 'key' the surface of the new render using a nail to scratch a criss-cross pattern.



For large wall surfaces, make up a 'rake' using a piece of scrap timber and nails.
Space the nails every 25mm across the timber and ensure that they are driven through the timber to protrude an equal distance through the other side.

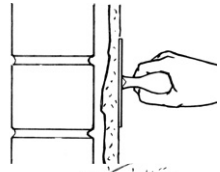


Use the rake to scratch the criss-cross pattern on the wall.
When keying is completed, allow the first coat to harden for 24 to 36 hours. Ensure that the render does not dry out by misting the surface lightly with a spray bottle and covering with plastic drop sheets to reduce evaporation.

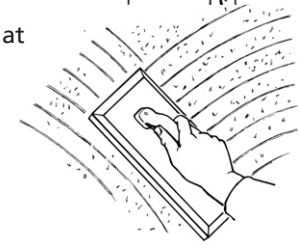


Applying the Second Coat

Mix the render as above and apply as you did for the first coat, ensuring that the second layer is thick enough to cover any imperfections.
For a different surface finish, apply the second coating with a timber trowel, smoothing off in sweeping arcs that leave a pleasant surface texture.



Leave the completed wall for at least seven days if you are considering painting.



Finishing Touches

Add a few terracotta urns, pots and planters to add to the Mediterranean feel of a rendered garden wall.

For a more rustic look, finish the render with a ball of damp hessian or heavy duty sponge, wiping in a swirly pattern.

Other finish textures can be achieved using a stiff brush or broom either drawn across the damp render surface, or lightly patting the surface to produce a textured effect.

Creating Textures

