

TRADIE OF THE WEEK

Tony Migalka
from Tanking
You shares his
top tank tips



Tool: Makita BHP 444 cordless drill (BHP 441 no longer available), \$686, Makita 1300 361 690, www.makita.com.au

Tanking You 0418 827 200, www.tankingyou.com.au

MOST COMMON CALL-OUTS?

For advice on the best design, application and tank style. Government and council rebates are encouraging water conservation so most people are opting to have their toilet, shower or whole house on rainwater with mains back-up. Adelaide Hills residents are following CFS recommendations by fitting separate tanks for fire use. And winter call-outs for small leaks, blocked overflow and leaf strainer inlets.

HOME REMEDY?

Most call-outs for overflow problems are because people haven't cleared the gutters or

the leaf strainer basket inlet. Keeping the maintenance up will give you crystal-clear water. Sometimes an airlock in the pipes can cause pumps to turn on and off consistently. Turn the pump off at the mains power, open the bleeding bolt on the pump wet-end housing to expel airlock and then re-tighten. Then you just have to restart the pump.

BEST THING TO ASK?

What is the maximum amount of water I can harvest from my roof space in a practical and cost-effective way? An experienced tank installer will need to see the site to give you

accurate advice on size and style. When buying a tank it's important to compare quality when comparing price. Rainwise at Clearview and St Mary's have a range of locally made tanks with 10 year warranty. What pump size will I need? Pump size and power have great variation in price; it's important to determine how you will use the rainwater and the distance from the tank to where the water is required.

BIGGEST MISTAKE PEOPLE MAKE?

Buying tanks that are too small or large. Often people go for small tanks, thinking they can

only have what fits down the side of the house. Tanks can be easily craned over houses and hidden down the back of a block with the water pumped to the house. Preparing the base insufficiently is a common error - it must be level and retained to avoid erosion. Cheap imported pumps are a problem; spend extra on quality Australian-designed and engineered pumps and you won't have to replace them.

YOUR FAVOURITE TOOL?

My Makita BHP 441 cordless drill gets a daily workout. It's ideal for attaching stormwater pipes to the walls and fitting tank flanges and gauges.