

SECURING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS  
through appropriate technology

# How to look after your rainwater



CRC for Water Quality  
and Treatment

Rainwater is good to drink and tastes nice if the water is clean.

This booklet is about how to look after your rainwater system and what to do if something goes wrong. If you look after your rainwater system, the water should be safe to drink.



This booklet is a guide to undertaking preventive maintenance on rainwater systems at the household or community level. It was generated as a part of the Mabunji Rainwater Harvesting Management Project supported by Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Commission. The publication recognises the support of the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Commission, the Co-operative Research Centre for Water Quality and Treatment and Robyn Grey-Gardner.

CAT can be contacted for information about the project.  
32 Priest Street  
Alice Springs NT 0871  
Ph 08 8951 4311

© Centre for Appropriate Technology 2005



# Catchment



The roof catches all the rain which is stored in the tank. Any rubbish on the roof will make the water dirty.

Clean the roof and gutters. Take out leaves and big things like rocks and balls that may block up the gutters.



There are two mesh inserts inside the small tank that need to be hosed clean after there has been lots of rain, or after a very long dry. Before cleaning make sure the small tank is empty.

The dirty water in the small tank needs to be let out every 6 months.



**To empty small tank** turn the lever at the top of the valve.

Be careful. The water comes out very fast!

# Pipes and Tanks

The water from the tanks goes to the pump through an underground pipe. Stop the water when work is being done on the pump.



**To stop water,** turn the handle anti-clockwise.

When the work on the pump is finished, re-open the handle.



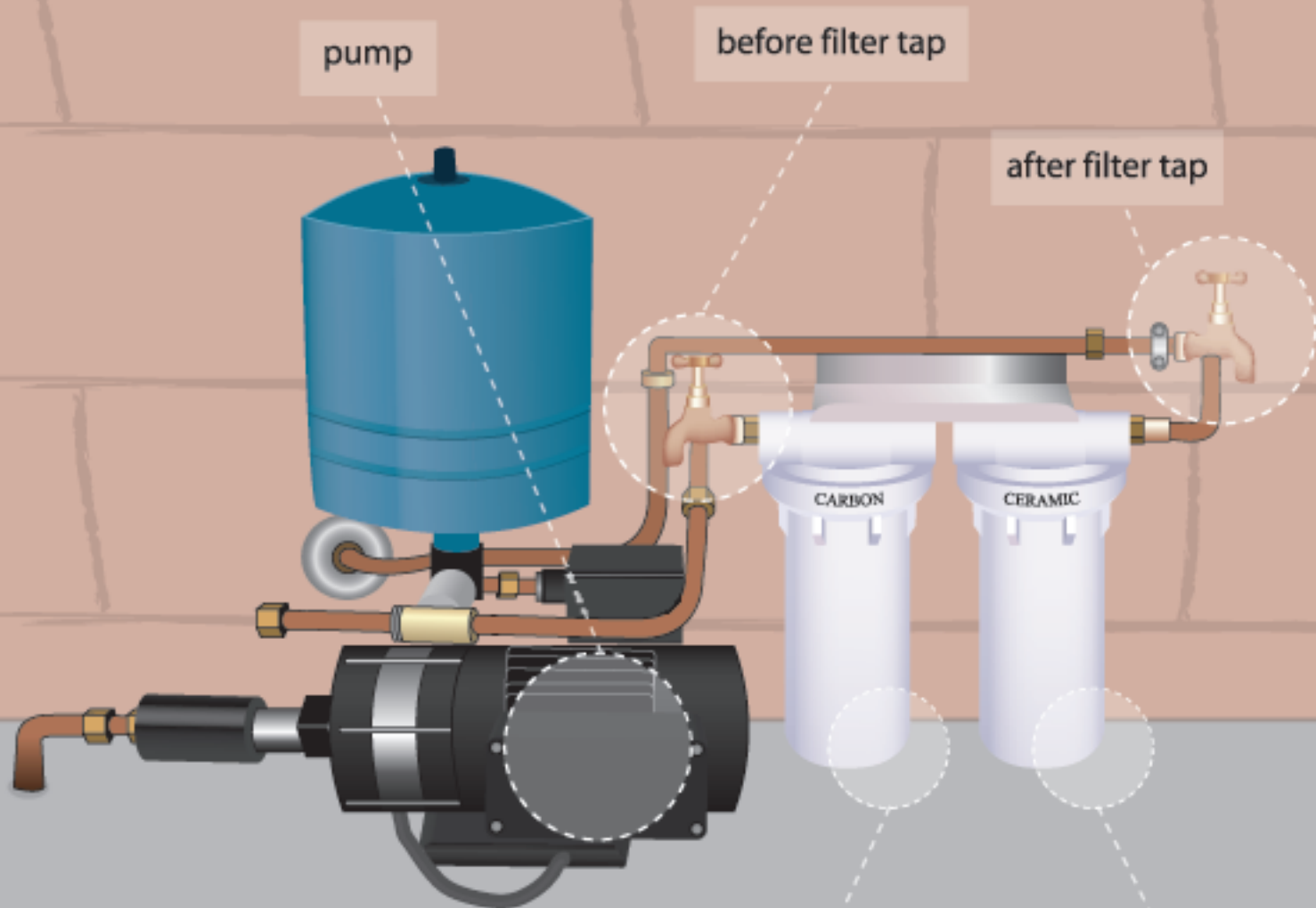
**To start the water,** turn the handle clockwise.

This screen stops mosquitoes getting inside and breeding in the tank.



If there is a hole in the screen it must be replaced. Keep kids away from these screens. Most of them break because kids have poked sticks through the mesh.





**carbon**



There are two filters – a carbon one that looks like fishnet and a ceramic one that looks like a block of white powder.

**ceramic**



**Filter 1 carbon**

**Filter 2 ceramic**

Take out the filters by unscrewing the filter holder with the circular cartridge handle.

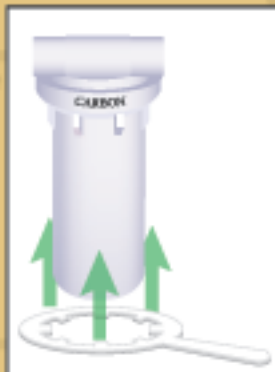
If the carbon filter gets blocked or looks orange – put in a new one.

If the ceramic filter looks orange, clean it with a green scourer pad or rub it under water with your hands until it is white again. Put in a new one every year.

The carbon filter must be on the left and the ceramic filter must be on the right. Don't forget to fit the little black 'O' Ring inside the top of the filter holders. The 'O' Ring stops water leaking out.

# Treatment

## Filter 1 carbon



position handle



unscrew filter holder



remove and check filter



replace

OK



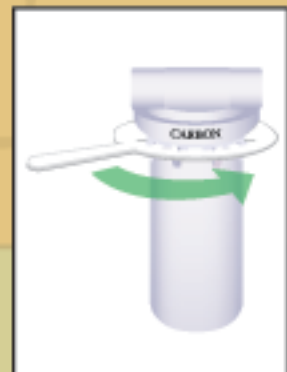
clean filter holder with sponge



put-in filter and 'O' ring



position filter holder and handle



screw on tight

## Filter 2 ceramic



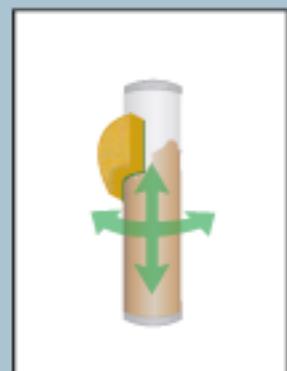
position handle



unscrew filter holder



remove and check filter



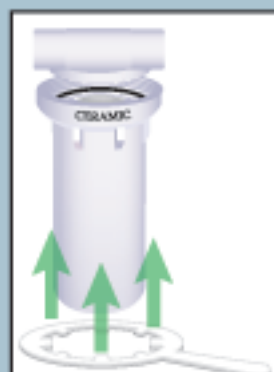
clean filter with green scourer



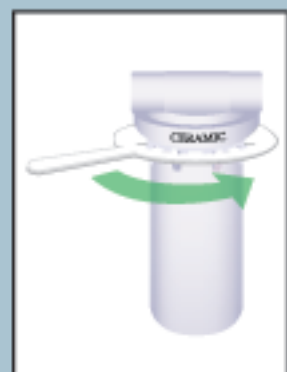
clean filter holder with sponge



put-in filter and 'O' ring




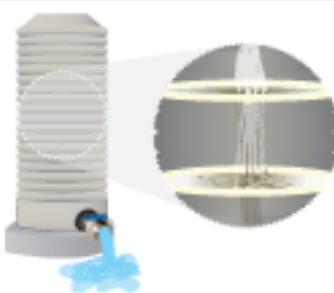


position filter holder and handle


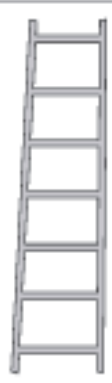





screw on tight

# Looking after your rainwater system

every week	every 6 months	every year	after big rain or long dry
			
check mosquito stoppers	change filters that can't be cleaned	change ceramic and carbon filters	empty the small tank and clean mesh inserts

## What you need

				
phillips head screwdriver	ladder	circular cartridge handle	scourer pad	shifting spanner

### Filters can be bought from:

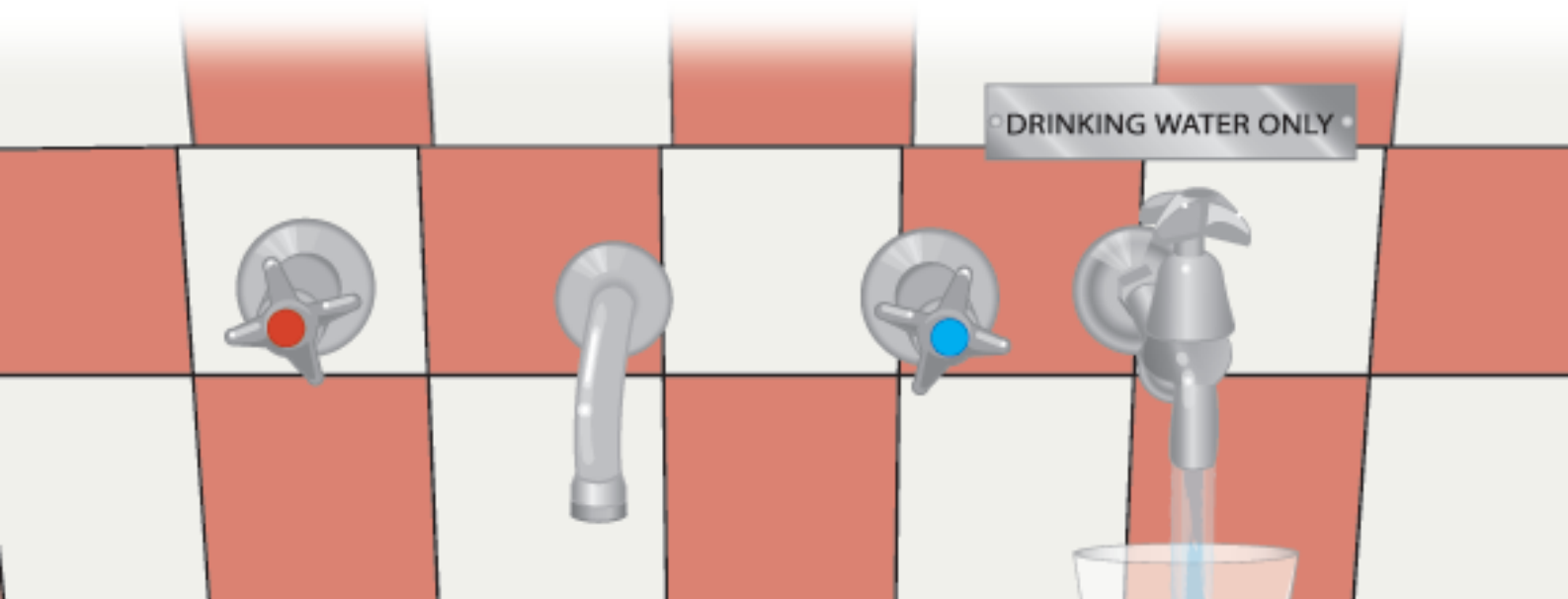
Freshwater Systems Australia Pty Ltd  
 107 Sir Donald Bradman Drive  
 Hilton SA 5033  
 Ph 08 8351 7800  
 Fax 08 8351 8033

Ceramic filter replacements cost \$68\* each  
 Carbon block filters cost \$33\* each

### The pump is a Grundfos Pump.

Grundfos pumps Pty Ltd  
 515 South Road  
 Regency Park SA 5010  
 Ph 08 8461 4611  
 Fax 08 8340 0155

\*Cost are approximate only



The third tap at the sink is the rainwater tap. If the water flows really slowly, the ceramic filter needs cleaning or to be replaced.

If the tap leaks or is broken contact the community council or the housing officer.