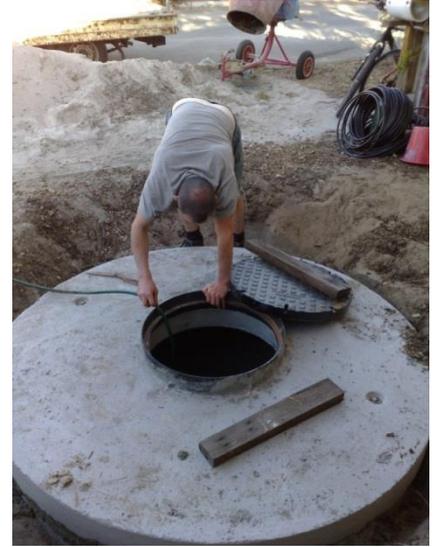


Water at Shimtani

Underground Water Tanks



We have a small block here (213m²), so we decided to put some rainwater tanks underground. Although it cost a bit more, we could build vegie beds over the top of them. We used two soak well liners, and lined them with a pvc liner. There is 14,000 litres storage.

It was pretty tricky installing these tanks due to the restricted space. The first half of a soakwell liner was put level on the ground. Then the sand was removed from inside the tank until the tank subsided into the ground. Then the second soakwell liner half was stacked on top and the process was repeated.



The water is collected from the front half of the roof, flows through a leaf eater and a first flush diverter, and then into the tanks.



Once collected in the tanks the water is then pumped into the house via a submersible pump, filtered through an inline filter. We use this water for all our household water needs - in the garden, kitchen and bathroom. It means we are independent of mains water over winter!

Grey Water at Ecoburbia

We use very simple grey water systems at our home. The systems you see here are very cheap, easy to set up, never break down, use no power or pumps and never need to have the filters clean.

Shower We put a 12 litre plastic tub in the shower which catches nearly all the water from the shower. Tim uses not soap or shampoos and Shani watches what she uses. We find we

don't need a shower timer - when the tub is full your shower is over! We pour the water from the tub directly into the toilet cistern to flush the loo. We generally find that the water we shower in is about the same as what we need to flush the toilet

Hand basin The water from washing your hands or brushing your teeth in the hand basin runs into a 40 mm pipe which feeds directly to the grape vine in the chook yard.



Kitchen Grey Water We have a double sink in our kitchen - we use one side of washing greasy plates etc and this black water goes directly to the sewer. We use the smaller sink for washing hands, rinsing veggies etc. This water goes through a 50 mm pipe directly to a grape and passionfruit vine.

These systems may not be strictly legal, but they do work!

Laundry You will notice we do not have a washing machine here. We have a deal with a great local sustainable accommodation place The Painted Fish and use their washing machine!

Drinking Sea Water

This is a solar desalination unit. It is made by a company called F Cubed, and cost about \$600.

Powered by a small solar pump, it can produce 20 litres of water a day in full sun. This is enough drinking water for a family.

It can be used in remote areas where the artesian water is salty or can be used in disaster areas where drinking water has been contaminated.



Tim and his mate Dave could not resist trying it out.