



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Ministry of Health

Department of Health

SOLUTIONS FOR COMMON TANK WATER PROBLEMS

Bermuda is one of the few places in the world that utilizes a roof catchment and tank system to collect and store rainwater for potable (drinking) purposes. This method, which has proven itself over the years, provides every residence with its own supply of drinking water.

The quality of your tank water will depend largely on how well you maintain the water system. This information outlines some of the common tank water problems along with our recommended solutions. Our contact information is provided below if you require assistance with a tank water problem.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Stagnation

- Stagnation occurs when the water lacks oxygen and smells foul, like rotten eggs, due to the presence of hydrogen sulphide. If the tank is clean, follow the instructions below to chlorinate and aerate the water to improve its quality.

Chlorination

Add a half cup (4oz) of regular household unscented bleach for every 1000 gallons of water. Incorporate well into the water by agitating with a quarter full bucket of water tied to a rope to splash the surface.

(No. of imperial gallons in tank = length x width x depth of water x 6.25)

Aeration

After adding chlorine, run your garden hose to the top of the roof and allow the water to flow along the roof catchment and back into the tank. This process may take a number of hours to complete depending on the amount of water that must be recirculated.

Mosquito and fly larvae (blood worms)

- Gumbusia fish (guppies) will consume the insect larvae in the water tank. They can be obtained from the Department of Health Pest Control section or a pet store. Ensure that the tank overflow is covered with fine mesh screen and the outlet is above ground level.

Paint Contamination

- If roof catchment paint contaminates your tank water, then you should discard the water and fill the tank with clean fresh water. Signs of contamination are that the water looks cloudy and tastes unpleasant.

Rust Coloured Water

- Over time old galvanized water distribution pipes will deteriorate and corrode internally due to the soft water. When that happens and rust coloured water flows from your taps, you will need to replace the pipes.

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