



# Water Tank Cleaning Guide

Devan Water Tanks



## **Devan Water Tanks. Made in New Zealand for New Zealand Conditions!**

In order to gain maximum benefit from your Devan water tank, we have outlined the following instructions for the periodic cleaning of the tank to ensure your water supply is clean and healthy.

Depending on the cleanliness of your water source, your water tank should be cleaned on a regular basis.

### **What can end up in my water?**

Algae growth is a common occurrence in water tanks. Devan water tanks are manufactured to strict quality tolerances, meaning that no light can penetrate the tank which will eliminate any algae growth, as algae need light to exist. Sometimes the nature of an installation can change this whereby an installer may cut oversized holes for inlets or overflows/venting. Blocking up any points for light to enter the tank will reduce or eliminate algae growth in the tank.

External debris are a much more visible source of contamination that will either float on the top of the water, or form sediment on the bottom of the tank. Such contaminants will consist of leaf litter, bird droppings, dead insects and even animals. This debris will build up on the bottom of your tank and require removal periodically.

### **Cleaning frequency**

Devan recommend that you clean your tank out at least annually; however it is important to inspect your water tank on a quarterly basis to assess the level of contamination. A quality installation

with the right pretreatment accessories could mean your tank remains in immaculate condition for a number of years before requiring cleaning. Cleaning of your tank will either take a bunch of your time or money and so the less frequently you need to clean it, the better. If you are noticing the rapid build up of sediment on the bottom of your tank, investigate the options for pre-treatment.

Devan tanks have outlet locations positioned up off the bottom of the tank which means you are not drawing off the contaminated water at the bottom of the tank for your day to day consumption. This is a precautionary measure only and should not be relied upon to prevent organic material entering your water supply.

### **Tank cleaning options**

#### *Professional contractors*

The Yellow Pages and other online sources will provide the details of people providing 'Water Tank Services'.

Depending on your proximity to the nearest service provider, this is not a terribly expensive exercise with reports of \$200-\$300 plus the cost of a tank of water, which varies dramatically around the country.

Although a self clean (described below) is a relatively straight forward exercise, it can be very time consuming, while a contractor will have it done in a couple of hours.

### *Do it yourself*

Warning: If you will be getting into the tank to clean it, make sure there is adequate ventilation, and you have another person present at all times in case something should go wrong. Working in confined spaces is dangerous and should not be attempted by an individual working alone.

Draining the tank down to the last 1-2 thousand litres through the spare outlet will concentrate all contaminants into the bottom of the tank. The quickest and easiest way to then remove the concentrated contaminants is to hire a wet vacuum system or pump and stir up all the debris with a soft broom, which will then be sucked out by the vacuum or pump.

Siphoning off sediments may also be done using an inverted funnel (described below) or pool vacuum cleaner, by dragging it along the bottom of the tank.



1) Start with a piece of flexible plastic tubing long enough to reach into your tank. Then fix an ordinary kitchen funnel to one end.



2) Fill the tube with water from a garden hose, making sure there are no air spaces present and the funnel is partially filled.



3) Block up the open end with a watertight seal and hold the funnel end vertical so the water stays contained in the tube.



4) If you are unable to enter the tank, attach the funnel to a long pole that you can manoeuvre through the tank opening.



5) When ready, plunge the funnel end into the tank water, then position the outside end in bucket and remove the stopper.



6) Water should begin to flow out the tank into the bucket, and you can now suck up any accumulated debris on the tank floor.

Devan would like to credit Gisborne District Council for some written content and the pictorial siphon instructions, and the Ministry of Health for some written content.



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