

# Water tank connections for bushfire-prone areas (domestic and commercial)

Information Sheet, January 2025

This fact sheet provides information on how to best set up water supplies to assist firefighters on properties in bushfire-prone areas. It includes information on the siting, capacity, access and appropriate fittings needed for firefighters to access and use water supplies during an emergency.

Please note: if you are establishing water supplies to comply with planning requirements, you should read this fact sheet in conjunction with the [Planning for Bushfire Guidelines](#), as well as relevant planning schemes or policies from your local government.



## What fittings should I fit the water tank with?

All tanks for firefighting should be fitted with a 50 millimetres or 100 millimetres male camlock fitting. This fitting is readily available from most hardware and rural supply shops. DFES recommends a male camlock fitting, as it means there are no perishable washers or working parts to maintain.

The fitting should be controlled by a butterfly, ball or gate valve, as these can easily control flow.



## Why do I need a water tank for bushfires on my property?

You may have a water tank dedicated to bushfires to make your property as resilient as possible, or it may be a formal requirement under relevant planning or building regulations.

A water tank dedicated to firefighting supports firefighters attempting to protect your property and other assets from bushfires. You should consider a dedicated water tank alongside other bushfire prevention and preparedness activities, such as managing bushfire fuels and having a bushfire plan.

## Where should I site a water tank?

You should site water tanks on clear, level ground compacted to take the maximum weight of the tank when full.

The tank should also be in a low-fuel area with at least 3 metres cleared around it to prevent direct contact with flames.

The water tank must be accessible to firefighting appliances and include a suitable area for these to turn around. You can find more information on recommended minimum standards for access in the [firebreak construction guidelines](#).

## What capacity should the tank be?

The recommended minimum capacity for a firefighting water supply is 10,000 litres.

You may be using the tank for other purposes besides bushfire fighting, such as water for livestock or other rural purposes. However, it is recommended that a minimum of 10,000 litres is always available for firefighting.

