

Bore Water Basics

Access groundwater as a water source for the property

DIFFICULTY Hard

TYPE One-off installation, ongoing use
TIME Days to weeks including drilling and testing



DIFFICULTY
Hard



TIME
Days-weeks



COST
High



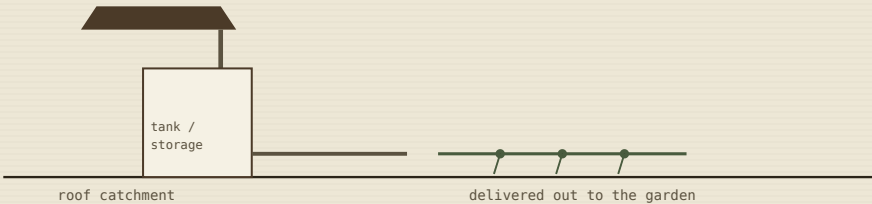
BEST SEASON
Any time



FREQUENCY
Passive once installed

01 Drilled, pumped, and tested

A bore accesses groundwater from an aquifer below the property, pumped to the surface for use — water quality and yield vary enormously by location, so testing before committing to a system is essential.



02 What you'll need

- A licensed bore driller for your region
- Water licensing/approval — groundwater extraction is regulated in every Australian state
- A pump sized to the bore's depth and yield
- Water quality testing before committing to a specific use (drinking, stock, or irrigation only)

03 Method

1. Check groundwater licensing requirements and any restrictions for your area before drilling.
2. Engage a licensed driller, who will typically also advise on likely depth and yield for your area based on local knowledge.
3. Test water quality thoroughly once the bore is producing — salinity and mineral content vary enormously even between nearby properties.
4. Install a pump sized correctly for the bore's depth and sustainable yield.
5. Set up appropriate treatment if needed for your intended use, based on test results.

04 Troubleshooting

- **Poor water quality (high salinity/minerals)** — common in some regions; may still be suitable for stock or irrigation even if not for drinking.
- **Low or declining yield** — can indicate aquifer depletion or a bore issue; consult your driller for reassessment.
- **Pump issues** — ensure the pump is correctly matched to bore depth and yield; an undersized or oversized pump both cause problems.
- **Unclear on permitted uses** — confirm with your state authority exactly what your licence permits (stock/domestic/irrigation allowances often differ).

05 Timing & maintenance

BEST TIME	Any time, though drilling access can be affected by very wet ground conditions.
DURATION	A properly installed bore is a long-term water source, often for decades.
MAINTENANCE	Periodic pump servicing and water quality re-testing, particularly if usage patterns change.
SIGNS OF SUCCESS	A reliable, tested yield sufficient for your intended use, with water quality suited to that specific application.

06 Tips & variations

PAIRS WELL WITH

Farm Dams for Water Storage

Rainwater Harvesting & Tank Sizing

COMMON MISTAKES

Committing to a specific use before water quality testing

Proceeding without checking groundwater licensing requirements

PRO TIP

Even bore water unsuitable for drinking due to salinity or mineral content is often perfectly good for stock or irrigation — get it tested before assuming it's unusable.