

TREE TROFF® drinkers FAQs

1. What is the TREE TROFF®?

The TREE TROFF® is a conservation tool designed to help mitigate the impact of climate change on arboreal wildlife by providing supplementary water. The TREE TROFF® consists of an automatic refilling drinking bowl with an approximate capacity of 3 L, connected to a large water tank (220 L). An adjustable valve maintains a constant level of water in the bowl to provide water at all times. A sturdy artificial branch made of natural material is attached to the bowl close to the tree trunk and acts as a drinking platform, 3 m above ground level.

2. What trees are suitable for a TREE TROFF® drinker?

Native mature trees that have a minimum diameter of 30 cm at 3 m above ground level. Trees also need to be 500 m away from other water sources, away from domestic pets or animals that may scare wildlife and ideally have evidence that they are frequented by wildlife. Trees will also need to be easily accessible by vehicle to refill the water tanks. Refilling the TREE TROFF® requires a vehicle that can carry a water tank (minimum 220 L) and a water pump.

3. What materials are provided with the drinker?

All components that you will need to build the TREE TROFF® are provided in the package, including bowl, water tank, tank cage, steel stand, drinking platform, steel stakes, tether, hose clamps, thread tape, nuts and bolts, chain and plumbing. You will be required to use some common tools to install the TREE TROFF® drinker, including a shovel, spirit level, sledgehammer, sawhorse, screwdriver, ring and socket spanners, pliers and multigrips.

4. Will installing a TREE TROFF® drinker damage the tree?

The TREE TROFF® is designed to be non-invasive. There are only two points of contact between the drinker and the tree: 1. The TREE TROFF® gently rests on the tree at the drinking platform; and 2. A tether is wrapped around the tree to safely secure the drinker.

5. How much does the drinker weigh?

The TREE TROFF® weighs approximately 45 kg (with an empty tank). When lifting and lowering the TREE TROFF® the water tank MUST be empty.

6. How big is the TREE TROFF®?

The TREE TROFF® has a 1.2 m wide base on the ground and the structure extends upwards to the drinking platform 3 m above the ground. The 220 L water tank is above the drinking platform, enclosed in a tank cage.

7. Is the TREE TROFF® safe to use?

The TREE TROFF® has been designed to be safe to use and secure. The drinker is anchored in place by two large metal stakes that are driven into the ground at the base of the structure. Additionally, the TREE TROFF® is secured to the tree by a ratchet strap tether which is secure and does not damage the tree. The TREE TROFF® has also been inspected and accredited by an independent engineer to ensure it is structurally sound and safe.

8. How long does the TREE TROFF® take to install?

The TREE TROFF® should ideally be installed by 2 people and will take about 2 hours to install.

9. How often do I need to refill the TREE TROFF®?

The 220L water tank will need to be refilled every 5-8 weeks during drought conditions.

10. How do I refill the TREE TROFF® water tank?

Refilling the TREE TROFF® water tank requires a vehicle that can carry a water tank (minimum 220 L) and a water pump. So, ease of access must be considered during tree selection. Attach the water delivery hose from your water tank to the cam-lock on the TREE TROFF®, open the ball valve and begin pumping water to the TREE TROFF® water tank. Refilling the water tank can be completed by one person from the ground without lowering the drinker.

11. How often do I need to clean the TREE TROFF®?

Every month, water in the bowl should be refreshed by opening both ball valves and allowing the water bowl to slowly overflow to wash any debris, like leaves and scats, out of the bowl. Additionally, at every tank refill, the water bowl can be cleaned to remove more stubborn dirt and algae using the 'jet clean function' without lowering the drinker. When the drinker is lowered for periodic maintenance the bowl should be thoroughly scrubbed but NO chemicals should be used to clean the bowl.

12. How do I maintain the drinker?

Every 5-8 weeks the TREE TROFF® water tank will need to be refilled and the bowl cleaned using the 'jet clean function'. Maintenance that requires lowering the TREE TROFF® should be conducted twice a year at a minimum. At this time, the water bowl should be thoroughly scrubbed WITHOUT the use of chemicals, and all components of the TREE TROFF® should be checked for safety and to see if they require maintenance.

13. How do I know that wildlife are using the drinker?

The TREE TROFF® is designed to have an optional camera stand at the water bowl. The camera can be used to effectively monitor wildlife traffic at the drinker. Alternatively, other evidence of animal presence, like scats and tracks, can be used to identify wildlife use of the TREE TROFF®.

14. What animals will use the TREE TROFF®?

Only tree-dwelling animals will be able to access the TREE TROFF® drinker, including koalas, possums, gliders, birds, tree frogs and climbing reptiles. Different species will visit in different locations.