



Installing WaterUps® in a corrugated steel raised bed

Corrugated steel raised beds are probably the cheapest commercially available raised garden bed kits. They also come in a range of sizes. Unfortunately, one feature of the beds is that they usually come with rounded corners, which makes installing WaterUps® wicking cells in them just a little more involved.

Planning the cell layout

In order to accommodate the rounded corners you will need to cut the WaterUps® cells so that they fit neatly to the internal walls of the raised bed.

The best way to do this is to firstly work out how many cells you will need and mark where you will need to cut the cells:

1. Find a flat surface.
2. Set out the cells (feet down) to form a base.
3. The area of cells should be slightly greater than that of the corrugated steel raised bed.
4. Place the bed frame on top of the cells.
5. Work out the best positioning of the frame with the aim of avoiding as much as possible cutting through any of the feet/wicks. You should note that often it will not be possible to avoid this entirely.
6. Use a white permanent marker pen to trace out the internal perimeter of the frame.
7. Once you have marked the top of the cells take the frame and place it to one side.
8. Collect the cells with the white marks.

Cutting the WaterUps® cells

You will now need your jigsaw.

1. Cut 2mm inside the white line drawn on each cell.
2. Where required cut all the way to the bottom of any feet.



3. This will need to be done in 2 stages.
4. Firstly cut along the line through the top of each cell.
5. Identify those cells where you will need to cut through the feet.
6. For those affected, you will then need to turn the cell over (feet pointing up) and then cut through the base of the feet using the existing cut as a guide.



Preparing the base for the bed.

Now ensure that the base of the bed is level. It is often beneficial to lay down some Corflute sheet to provide a perfectly even base. Put the corrugated steel frame on top. Again check that it is level – a spirit level is useful for this.



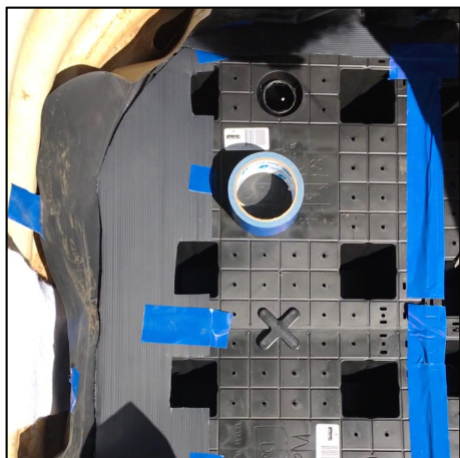
Pond liner

Add the pond liner so that it covers the entire base and up each internal wall approximately 200mm. It helps if you tape the pond liner to the sides of the bed to keep it in place until the soil mix is added.

Corrugated steel raised beds often have wing nuts on the internal walls. You can either take out the bottom one to ensure that it does not puncture the pond liner or tape over it with gaffer tape.

Adding the WaterUps® cells

Now place the cells in their appropriate position to form the base. Insert WaterUps® Joiners to ensure that the cells base is connected securely. Having cut the cells they should fit in very close to the internal perimeter of the frame.



GeoTec fabric

The next step is to place the GeoTec fabric around the inside perimeter of the frame. This is to make sure that no potting mix falls down into the water reservoir.

Check the following:

- Generally, you should anchor the GeoTec to the top of the cells approximately 5 to 10mm in from the perimeter edge. This can be done using the WaterUps® Joiners, or by using tape or staples.
- Where you have had to cut through the feet of the cells cover the cut feet on the perimeter fully cover with GeoTec and anchor to ensure that no soil can get into the water catchment below.
- Continue placing the GeoTec around all internal walls of the frame.

Overflow pipe

The next step is to identify the best position for the overflow pipe and to drill the hole for it.

To do this:

- 1 Place a cell on top of the base of the bed so that it touches the side wall;
- 2 Identify the semi-circles cut out of the underside of the WaterUps® cells near each corner. Choose one of these as the position for the overflow pipe and trace the outline of the pipe and mark the centre;

- 3 Use a 20mm hole saw to drill the hole for the overflow pipe.

You can use either a long PVC overflow pipe or the new WaterUps® Screw overflow pipe. Refer to the WaterUps® Installation Guide via the link below.

Inlet pipe

To add the WaterUps® inlet pipe take one of the WaterUps® cells and cut out the circle for the inlet pipe and insert it by aligning the 3 lugs at the base of the pipe with the holes in the cell.



Final steps

Now fill the 4 wicks of each cell with perlite and then add your potting mix, compost and plants.

Further Information

[Click here to view & download the WaterUps® Installation Guide](#)

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