Installing WaterUps® in large concrete planter tubs

WaterUps® cells can easily be added to most planter tubs to create a wicking system.

Sealing the old drainage hole

Like pots, most planter tubs come with a hole in the base so that water can drain out. This is clearly not what you want for a wicking bed, so the hole must be blocked up and sealed. You can do this quite easily.

Cover a thin piece of timber, fibro or tile with a sheet of plastic, and place under the planter where the hole is located;

Fill the hole with 'builder's bog' or similar adhesive.

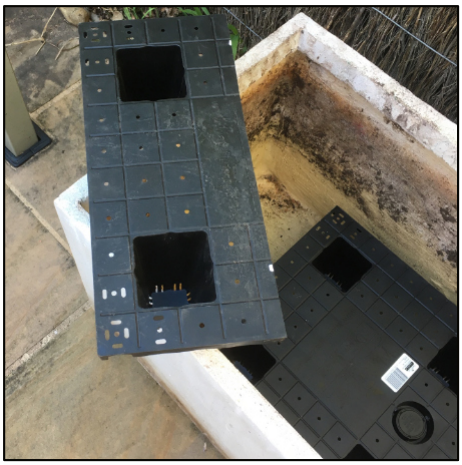
Make sure that you end up with a reasonably flat surface and leave for 24 hours to set.

Planning the cell layout

Most planter tubs are less than 500mm wide and can be up to 2000mm long. In my planter I could fit 2 cells reasonably well but there was a gap of about 180mm length wise and about 30mm on the sides.

To fill this gap, and complete the wicking base for our bed, we need to cut a WaterUps® cell to fit, which is easily done with a hand saw;

In my planter tub I was left with a gap on each side of the WaterUps® cells of more than 15mm. In this situation the best solution is to cut a couple of pieces of Corflute about 40mm wide to cover the gap. Refer to the section on 'Covering the gap around the WaterUps® Cells' on page 2.



QUICK TIP

If the gap was less than 15mm then you could centre the cells and just lay some GeoTec fabric around the edge. This would be sufficient to stop soil getting into the water reservoir.

Once you have worked out how the cells will fit and the gaps covered, take the cells out.

Attaching the 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.

Drilling the overflow hole

Check the underside of the WaterUps® cell for the semi circle that has been moulded to fit the overflow pipe. You will need to mark this position on the planter and use a 18mm hole saw to drill the hole for the overflow pipe.

QUICK TIP

Drill carefully from both sides to ensure the you don't damage the planter.

Waterproofing the Planter tub

It is important that the bottom 150mm of your planter tub is water proofed in order for the water reservoir and the WaterUps® wicking cells to work

effectively. This can be done by applying waterproof paint type material or by adding pond liner. In practice, applying waterproof paint is the easier alternative, but may take a couple of days to dry.

Adding the Pond Liner

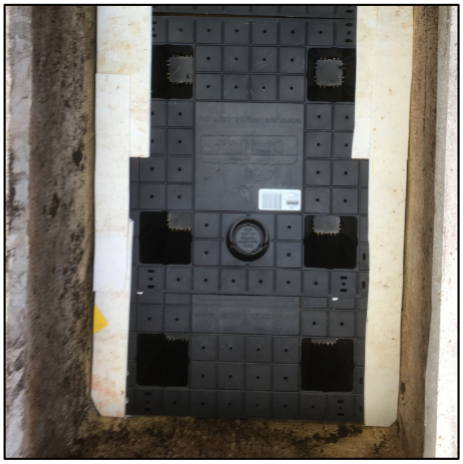
Before adding the pond liner you will need to measure how much you will need:

- To work out how much pond liner you will need, we suggest that you use the calculator tool on our website which you can go to using the link below.

Further Information

Click here to go to the WaterUps® Product Calculator

- Now place the pond liner into the planter so that it fits to the top on all sides.
- Find the position where the pond liner abuts the hole for the overflow pipe and mark this; then.
- Remove the pond liner and trace the outline of the overflow pipe to mark a circle where the overflow pipe will go. Cut out the marked circle in the pond liner so that it is just large enough for the overflow pipe.



QUICK TIP

Do not pull the liner too tight as its needs to cover the entire base right into the corners.

Adding the WaterUps® cells

Before adding the WaterUps® cells, place the pond liner back in the planter so that the overflow pipe holes align.

On the corners take care to fold the pond liner diagonally, to ensure that it sits neatly to the edge of the base and up the wall.

Next add the WaterUps® cell with the overflow pipe and place it in position;

Add the remaining cells and tape the pond liner to the top of the planter to keep it in the correct position.

Covering the gap around the WaterUps® cells

Given that the internal width of our planter is about 40mm larger than the WaterUps® cell width, we need to cover this to prevent soil form penetrating the water reservoir:

- Centre the cells so that the gap is evenly distributed;
- Place the pieces of Corflute that we cut earlier along the sides; and
- Push against the pond liner and staple or tape to the top of the cells.

Final step

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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