



Self-Watering Trough Planter

Assembly

Step 1. The Trough Planter is watertight. **Important:** If you plan to use the planter outdoors, you will need to drill holes to allow water to drain out during heavy rains. First, remove the Water Level Indicator and Brace from the Platform inside the Planter. Then, remove the Platform to reveal the four columns protruding up from the floor of the Planter. Using an electric drill with a 1/8" bit, drill a hole through the top of two or more of these columns.

Step 2. Replace the Platform. Make sure the ends of the Absorbing (wicking) Fabric reach into the Water Reservoir below. The fabric must be in contact with the water in the reservoir to draw water to your plants. Press down on the entire surface of the platform to snap it back into place.

Step 3. Place the Water Level Indicator into the Reservoir Platform. **Note:** Do not remove the Indicator once the planter is filled with soil. Soil may become trapped in the tube and prevent the indicator from working. To dislodge soil from the Indicator, remove and clean all parts of the Indicator, then reassemble and replace it.

Step 4. Pour a few inches of pre-moistened planting mix, such as our Self-Watering Container Mix, into the planter and press it firmly onto the Reservoir Platform. Continue to fill the planter with soil to within 3" of the top. Now plant your flowers or vegetables. **Note:** Be careful not to obstruct the view of the "MAX" line on the Water Level Indicator when filling the planter with soil.

Step 5. Fill the Water Reservoir through the opening in the Water Level Indicator.

Moisture Management

Monitor the soil's moisture and keep it moist but not soggy. Water is absorbed by the soil in two ways:

- Water evaporation pulls moisture up through the Reservoir Platform.
- Absorbent fabric carries moisture to the soil by capillary action.

Soil too dry? If you live in a hot, dry climate or experience extended periods of dry weather, check the water reservoir frequently. If the soil dries out, refill the reservoir and water the soil from above to reestablish the wicking action.

Soil too wet? If you find the soil is too wet, do not refill the water reservoir. Allow the soil to dry and return to a proper moisture level before you add water.