



DIY wicking bed kit instructions

Package contents

- 1 x pond liner, 1.6m x 2.5m
- 3 x WaterUps® wicking cells
- 1 x small strip geotextile fabric
- 1 x black WaterUps® inlet pipe with extension + lid
- 1 x outlet pipe with elbow

Extras required, not supplied

8L perlite

Soil – 0.18m³ per crate. We use and recommend the following soils.

BioGro Premium Wicking Mix (6 x 30L bags).

Jeffries Veggie and Garden Soil (6 x 30L bags or 180L bulk) plus Jeffries Culchar.



Step 1

Before beginning construction of the garden bed, ensure the ground where you will be putting the crate is level. Whilst this is not critical to the wicking process, uneven ground can result in the crate twisting under the weight of the soil/water which will greatly reduce the lifespan of your garden bed. [We highly recommend installing our beds on pavers to further protect the timber from white ants or rotting. 6 pavers, 1 at each end of the 3 bearers.](#)

Step 2

Place the pond liner (1.6m × 2.5m) into the crate. The crate is longer in 1 direction so make sure the longest part of the black plastic goes in this direction. This is the trickiest part of the process and needs to be done well. Imagine you are wrapping a present, only inside out. Keep the short sides of the liner flat, without any folding to minimise the number of folds you need to do. The folding on the long sides needs to be done as neatly as possible to avoid tearing or puncturing the liner, think hospital or military corners. Make sure that the plastic is not tight at the base as this creates tension which will result in tears. Ensure the edges of the liner are at the top of the box otherwise water will leak out the bottom of the box.

Once you are happy with the liner, use clamps (or similar) to hold the liner in place.



Step 3

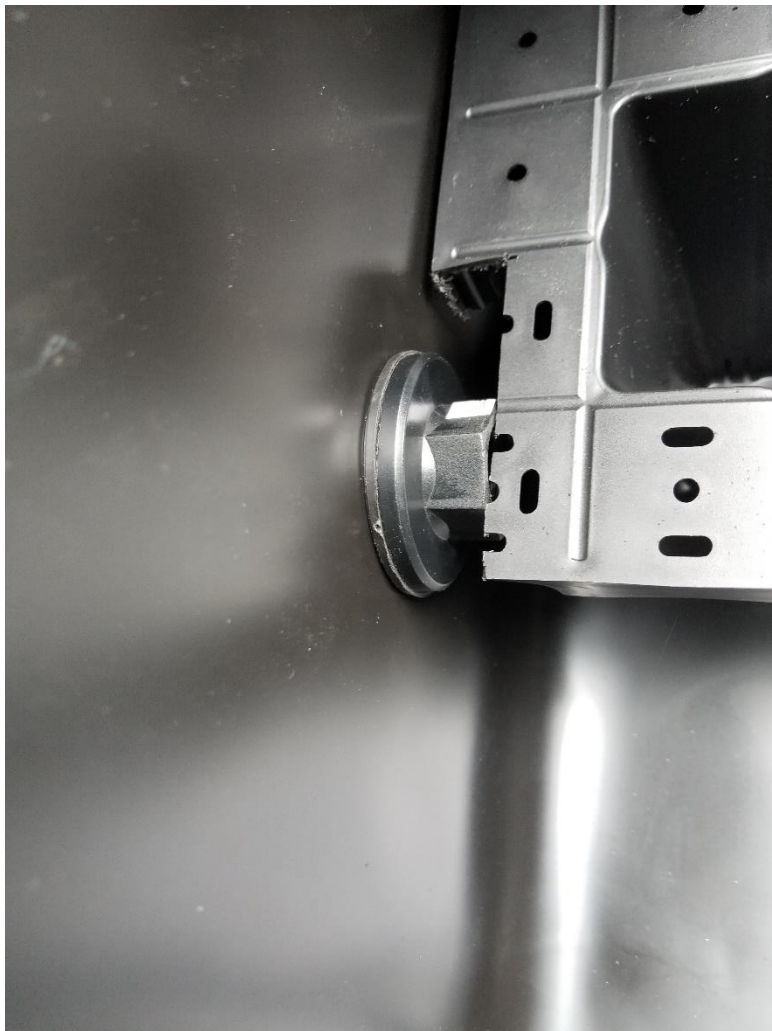
Use a knife to pierce a hole through the liner from the inside of the box for the overflow pipe where the hole in the box is. Unscrew the elbow and the screw fitting and the silicon washer. Insert through the box from the inside and put washer and screw fitting on the outside and tighten firmly (note – picture shows pipe in a box without liners). Attach the elbow to the pipe on the outside. If you find the outlet pipe is too long for your liking, you can remove up to 4cm from the length and still fit the elbow in place.

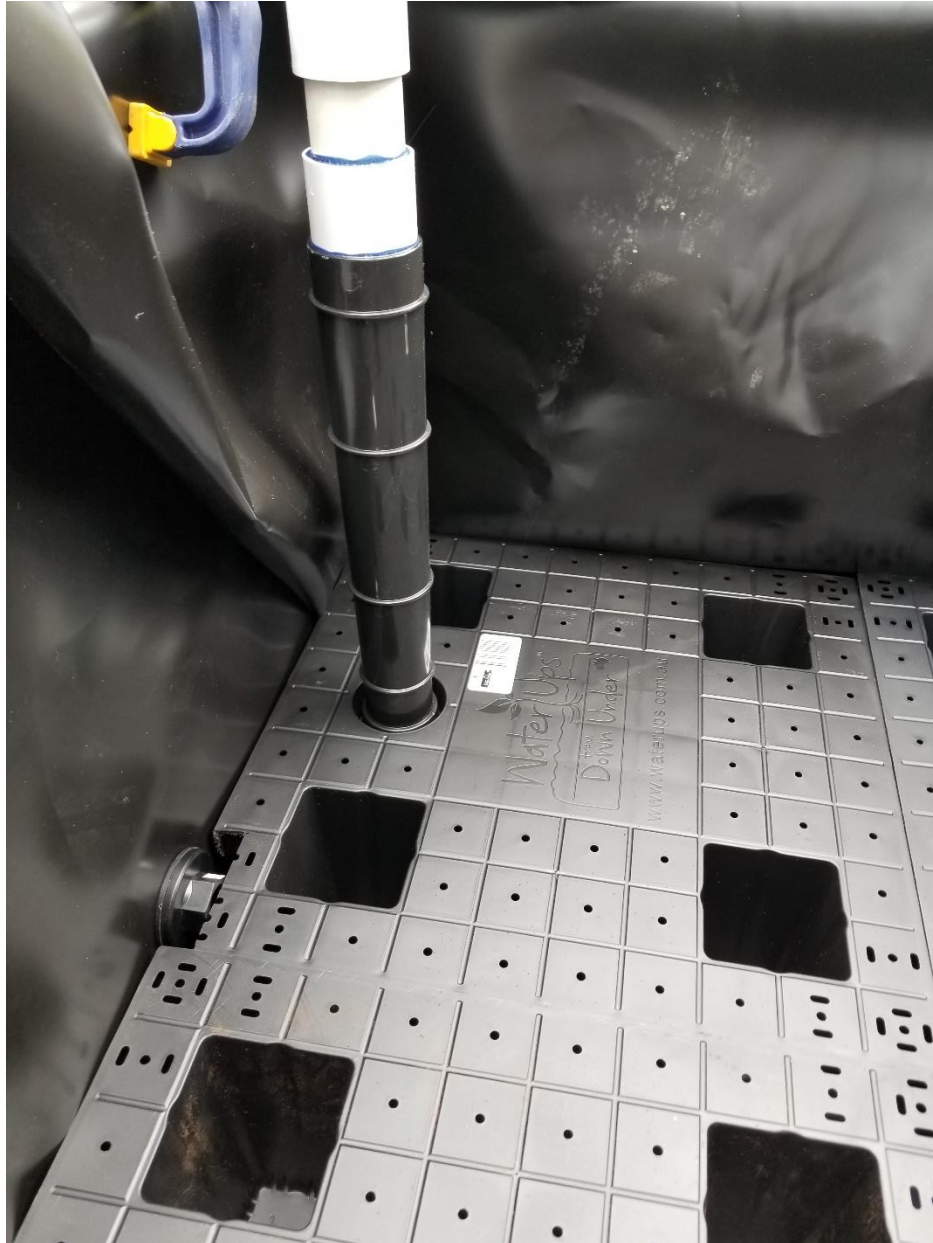


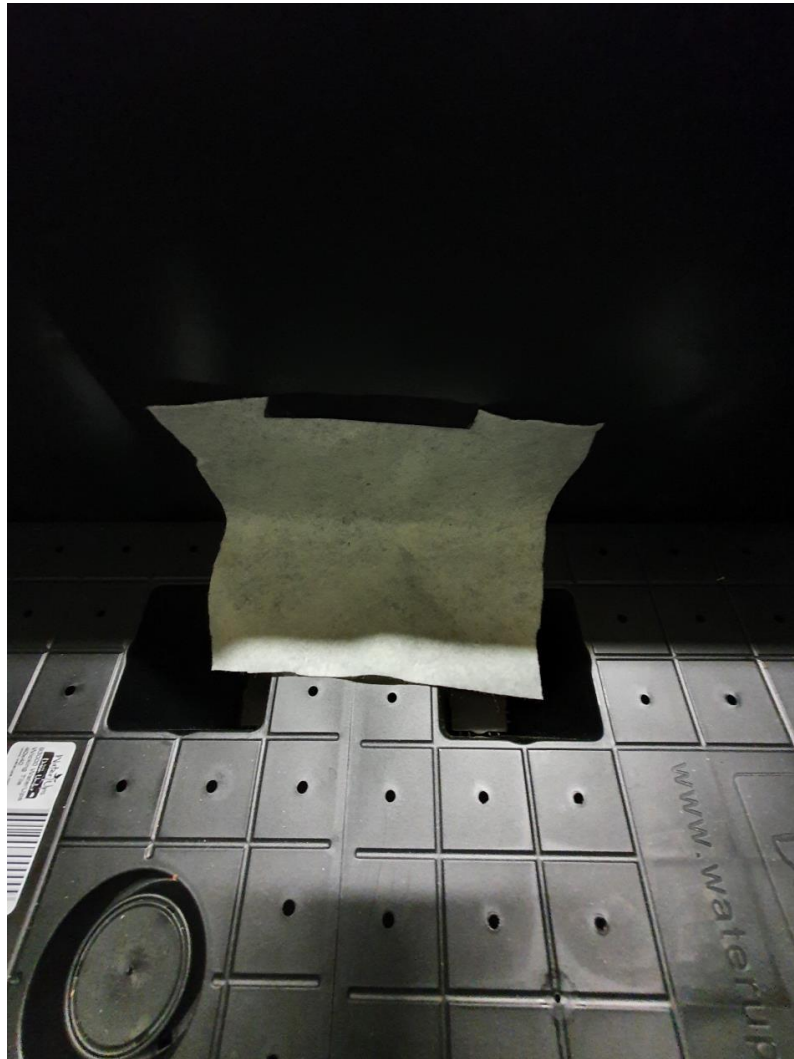


Step 4

Place the modified wicking cell in the bed over the overflow pipe fitted in the area of the cell that has been modified as shown in the picture. Place the other 2 wicking cells in the box. Insert the inlet pipe into the cell with the hole cut out, pushing the 3 lugs on the bottom through the corresponding holes. Place the geotextile cloth over the gap where the outlet pipe is. Secure it to the side with duct tape.









Step 5

Fill the 'wicks', the 4 legs of each wicking cell, with the perlite (note the picture shows extra strips of geotextile that are no longer used). This aids the wicking process and provides better aeration. Add in 1 x 30L bags of soil (or a half a wheelbarrow load if using bulk soil) level it off, remove the clamps holding the plastic liner in place and then fill the reservoir with water until water comes out the overflow pipe. This allows the liner to adjust to the extra tension of the water. Once the water reservoir is full you can secure the liner to the box using staples/nails and cut the excess to the level of the box. Continue adding the soil.

Add plants! You will need to water new seedlings in until their roots grow, this will take 1-2 weeks. Apply a layer of mulch to keep the top of the soil cooler.



