Direct Polytunnels

Polytunnel Construction manual Including 5 Season polythene cover PLEASE READ FULLY BEFORE INSTALLATION Direct Polytunnels is Part of Direct Plants



1. What's included

- Half hoops, note 2 half hoops equals 1 full hoop
- Roof ridge centre bars (labelled)
- 4 Diagonal corner support bars (labelled)
- Foundation ground tubes (labelled)
- 8x diagonal swivel corner bracing clamps
- 2x Long T end roof clamps
- 4 Hole crossover clamps (for each 6ft spacing between 2 end T clamps)
- Straight joining roof bar clamps
- Hex key for clamps
- 4 Metal strap clips for attaching timber frames
- 5 Seasons polythene cover

We suggest you lay all items on a clean level surface and familiarise yourself with all the contents before starting

What you will need

- Hammer
- Sledge hammer
- Sharp knife
- Tape measure
- Builders level line
- Spirit level
- Shovel / Spade

If not purchased directly, you will require timber to build 2 doors and 2 door frames, plus smaller 2"x1" timber battens to clamp polythene to your doors and door frames.

2. Site, Foundation Tubes, Frame & Trench

When marking your site ensure you have approx 1m of clear working space around your polytunnel for easy construction. Before you start to build your polytunnel you will need to mark and set out your measurements. The foundation ground tubes should be spaced measured at the ft width and the ft length you ordered, spacing length ways in 6ft intervals. Ensure you measure from centre of ground tube to centre of each ground tube for correct spacing and size.

Hammer your foundation tubes at the required spacing's and to ensure the tops of the foundation tubes are approx 15cm above ground level, try to ensure the tops of all your ground tubes are level by placing a level line from the first tube to the last tube down each side of the tunnel.



Your polytunnel from an above birds eye view will have a rectangular shaped footprint, ensure your ground tubes and rectangle shape is equal and square, we suggest measuring from corner tube to opposite corner tube and repeating on both sides ensuring you have equal measurements.



NOTE: when hammering your tubes into the ground place a suitable piece of timber on top, this will prevent damaging the top of tube for an even stronger fixing you can concrete in a 4"x4" hole.



Lay the long roof bars on a level floor in a straight line to make your desired length and attach the 2 long T clamps at each end whilst spacing the 4 hole crossover clamps at 6ft distances apart, please ensure all the clamps are fixed in the same positions so your hoops can slot into the side holes.



Place the drilled end of each hoop into the ground tubes with a 3" nail inserted into the top drilled hole, hold the roof bar at the desired height and fix the plain end of the hoop into the side holes of each roof clamp and tighten, work from one end and connect the roof bars using the joining clamps, ensure all grub screws are tight. As you start at one end of your polytunnel ensure you fix the diagonal support bars in each corner. After the frame is complete you can add the Anti Hot Spot Tape



3. Trench

Using a length of 3" wide timber, mark a line approx 3" away from the edge of your polytunnel foundation ground tubes/framework (except eachdoor way) and dig a trench approx 12" wide x approx 10" deep (1 shovel width x 1shovel depth)



4. Door Frames (timber not included)

We recommend using 3"x2" or 4"x2" treated timber for your door entrance frames. You door frame posts should be approx 75cm wide for single & 180cm wide for double doors and centre to the middle of the roof ridge bar, you will have to dig in and firm the bottom of each door post to suit the end hoop (you may also concrete your door posts into the ground for extra strength).

Attatch the top of each door post to each end hoop by using the 4 metal strap clips. Fix your top timber between the 2 door posts to suit the top of your door, your door should be approx 180-200cm tall. Ensure your timber door posts are level and level/flush to the front hoop.



5. Polythene Sheet

Unroll the polythene sheet carefully on the floor along one side of the tunnel, carefully un-fold from the centre and with 2/3 people carefully pull the sheet over the frame so you have equal amounts each side and have equal amounts at each end. Initialy place approx 2-3 shovels of soil in the trench along both sides approx every 1m. Ensuring you still have equal amounts of polythene each side whilst pulling the polythene tight from each end. Place another 3 shovels of soil on each outside corner of the trench to hold the sheet in this position, gently pull / lift the sheet outwards on each side and place another 3 shovels of soil in the trench, this will tighten the sheet width ways, half fill trench down both sides of your tunnel. Try to ensure you pull all creases out of the polythene.

NOTE: Protect all sharp edges with some excess polythene, duck tape or similar

TIP: The tighter your sheet is, the longer it will last, if correctly fitted the polythene sheet can last upto 10 years, this is the most important part for your polytunnel, take plenty of time & care !



Using lenghts of timber battern, nail the battern to the outside of the timber door frames to fix the polythene, ensuring you pull hard and tighten the polythene over the frames before you nail the battern in place. Pulling in a diagonal direction will give you a tighter sheet, ensuring you spread any creases on the ends of your polythene out evenly. Always nail the top batten first and door post battens last. Back fill trench full and firm in by walking up and the trench.



NOTE: Never attempt to cover a polytunnel on a windy day, always choose a day with no wind & take your time! If your polythene is not tight this will void the guarantee. The tighter your polythene cover is, the longer it will last, if correctly fitted the polythene sheet can last up to 10-12 years!

After the above stages have been completed you can extra tighten the sheet from inside by lifting each hoop and replacing the 3" support nail into the bottom drilled hole at the bottom of each hoop. DO NOT LIFT THE DOOR FRAME END HOOPS AT EACH END OF YOUR POLYTUNNEL. Trim all excess polythene to soil level & trim polythene into door ways, saving any off cuts for any doors you may wish to cover at a later date.

TIP: When trimming into door ways leave approx 3" of polythene away from your timber, this will act as an extra seal when you add doors.





6. Building a SuggestedDoor (timber not included)

We suggest using 2"x2" or 3"x2" treated timber for a working hindged door, you must measure and build a door to suit the measurements of your door frame (single or double). Using the off cut polythene you saved from your polytunnel build, you can cover the outside of your doors using the timber batten and nailing method as used to secure your polythene to your entrance frames, fix 2/3 suitable hinges and a lock.



We wish you all the success with your new Direct Polytunnel





























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