

How Does a Soaker Hose Work?

HydroSure
Solutions That Work

Soaker hose, also known as **leaky pipe** or **porous pipe** is both the first step into irrigation and also suitable for the more experienced gardener. Systems can be expanded to suit most garden environments, such as **flower beds, hedges, greenhouses, shrubs, planters, and trees**. The Soaker hose allows water droplets to gently seep through **porous layers** across the length of the hose to ensure water is not lost in the air but fed directly to where it is needed most: **the roots**.

Getting the Most From Your Soaker Hose



Easy to Use

Upon receiving your soaker hose, unwind slowly and with care. Try not to allow the hose to kink as this prevents the flow of water and can damage the structure of the hose. Once your hose is fully unwound, weigh it down with a brick on either side and leave it out in the sun for at least one hour which should allow any kinks to settle.



Water Saving

Soaker hose irrigation uses 70% less water than manual watering. **How often to run a soaker hose?** Start by running your soaker hose for 10 minutes three times a week and check the watered area to see if it has penetrated the soil's top layer enough to sufficiently water your plants.



Solutions That Work

Individually tailor your soaker hose to your garden layout. **Barbed elbows** can be used to direct the pipe around corners and use **Tees** to divert water flow three ways. Use barbed connectors that are the same size or 1mm larger than the internal diameter of your soaker hose to ensure no leaks and a watertight fit.



Healthy Plants

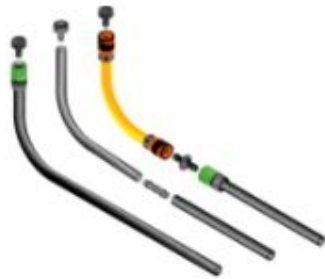
The soaker hose is best placed between **30cm to 50cm apart** and next to the base of your plants. For best results, space your soaker hose further apart in soil with high clay content and closer together in more sandy soil.

How to Use a Soaker Hose

Begin by drawing a plan of your garden and where you would like your soaker hose to water. It might be useful to write a list of extra components you will need to create your system.

Install a [Back Flow Preventer](#) to your tap right at the beginning of your system to protect your water source from contamination.

Supplying your Soaker Hose Watering System



A soaker hose can be connected to the tap in three ways. Direct connection is the most simple, however does allow water wastage from the soaker hose before it reaches where it is required to water. Use either [LDPE](#) or [Garden Hose](#) to take water directly between flower beds or planters.

LDPE: Thread a [Barbed Tap Connector](#) to the outlet of your tap and use [Barbed Components](#) to direct the pipe to where the soaker hose will be situated. Then, connect the LDPE pipe to the Soaker Hose using a [Barbed Joiner](#).

Hose Pipe: Connect your hose to the tap using [Hose End Connectors](#) and use a [Male Adaptor](#) to connect the Soaker Hose to your garden hose. Garden hose pipe is more flexible than LDPE pipe and is, therefore, easier to navigate around corners without requiring extra connectors.



Soaker hoses are perfect for domestic garden environments as they operate under low pressures (between **0.5 – 1 bar**). To maintain an even level of watering along the length of the hose, you will need a [Pressure Reducer](#) to ensure water from your hose is seeping, not spurting. Pressure reducers can be easily installed directly to a 3/4" garden tap followed by your tap connector and chosen method of supply.

Top Tip: Soaker hoses are not pressure regulated and do not work effectively on slopes. To keep your soaker hose watering at its best, it is recommended you use it only in flat areas. On more uneven ground it is advisable to use [Drip Line](#).

Maintain Healthy Plants

Length: Soaker hoses are most effective when run in shorter lengths, use the table below as a guide for maximum run lengths. You can cut your soaker hose to length using [Pipe Cutters](#).

Soaker Hose Diameter	Advisable Single Run Length	Advisable Set up in Metres Squared
13mm	30 Metres	15m ²
16mm	80 Metres	40m ²

Essential Extras: Place an [End Plug or End Stop](#) that fits the internal diameter of your soaker hose all open ends within your system. This maintains the required pressure for your soaker hose to run effectively and ensures water reaches along the full length of your hose.

Use [Hold Down Stakes](#) to keep your soaker hose close to the ground for maximum root watering and to avoid trip hazards.



Customising Your Soaker Hose System

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A soaker hose can be run in limited lengths however, you can water larger areas by arranging your soaker hose into different **watering zones**. Zoning an irrigation system essentially means splitting water from the tap to water different areas of your garden at different times. The aim of zoning an irrigation system is to use the available water from the tap and ensure this water can reach the furthest point away from the water source.

To create a watering system capable of watering your whole garden no matter how large, use a [Water Distributor](#) to connect multiple lengths of soaker hose to the tap that can be run independently.



Flexible, Reliable and Automated Watering

To create a fully automated and time-saving soaker hose system, you may wish to use [Water Timer or Tap Timer](#) at the beginning of your system. This simple solution allows you fully automate garden watering even when you are away from your property.



For Complex Garden Layouts

Set your soaker hose out in a gridded network, circular shape around plants, looped around trees or in a snake pattern through shrubs and borders.

Top Tip: Get creative with the layout of your soaker hose system using additional [Barbed Connectors](#) and [LDPE pipe](#). Use [Control Valves](#) installed throughout your system so you can manually turn off watering to parts of the system that may need less frequent watering, for example, in a vegetable bed where the soaker hose is installed in a gridded network and the produce has been uprooted when ready to eat.



Top Tip: Cover your soaker hose in mulch to improve the appearance of decorative flower beds and protect your hose from frost damage in the winter months. Mulch also ensures water from your soaker hose remains in the root zone where plants need it most and is less likely to evaporate in the air.

Preparing a Soaker Hose System for Autumn/Winter

Detach from the Water Source

Unlike garden hose pipes, a **soaker hose and its barbed connectors can remain in situ over the winter months**. There is no need to bring the hose into the shed or garage – another **time-saving benefit** of using soaker hose irrigation. The porous layers allow water to continually seep from the hose removing the need to drain the system.

Top Tip: Purchase spare **barbed tees, joiners, stakes** and **elbows** in case yours do not survive over winter.



To ensure a longer-lasting soaker hose, lightly cover the hose in a layer of mulch. Covering in mulch rather than soil insulates the hose from harsh weather and protects the hose against clogging.

Safe Storage

Remove any **quick click connectors** connecting the soaker hose to a **hose pipe** or to the tap. Place these connectors in a shed, garage or any undercover area and bring them out again as the weather begins to warm up.



Connectors: Where you have removed any connectors, place a marker so you can locate where you need to replace them next season.

Soaker Hose: If you have buried the hose under mulch, use markers such as plant labels to protect the hose from being speared if you are digging or aerating your garden.

Preparation for Next Season

Looking ahead to when we can get back outside and enjoy our summer gardens, your soaker hose system will need some reviving.

You will need to check your barbed connectors have survived the winter months and have not cracked. To tell if you need to replace connectors, you will visually be able to see water leaking from and around the connections.



Our Recommendations

Soaker Hose Kits

[Why not try our ready-made Soaker Hose Kits?](#) It takes the hassle out of searching for products you may need as all the hard work is done for you! Soaker hose kits can be used to water pots, flower beds, shrubs, planters, hedges, trees, and any other area of your garden you need to water.

We have kits available with different lengths of soaker hose suitable for most garden sizes, and kits with LDPE supply pipe included for more complex layouts.

Our Soaker Hose Kits contain all the components you need for easy installation and allow you the flexibility to lay your soaker hose kit in a way that compliments your garden layout.



[Shop Soaker Hose Kits](#)

Probore Soaker Hose

Our 16mm (20mm external diameter) Probore soaker hose is perfect for watering larger gardens or commercial environments, such as vineyards, allotments, orchards, or sports fields. Use [16mm](#) or [17mm](#) elbows, tees, and joiners to create a system that is perfectly designed to meet your watering requirements and keep your plants in the best condition.

Probore soaker hose has a larger internal diameter meaning it can water larger distances of up to 80m and can emit between 3-5 litres of water per hour.

Top Tip: The 16mm Probore soaker hose is compatible with our [19mm quick click connector](#) for a simple connection to the tap.



[Shop Probore Soaker Hose](#)