

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



Ready to Use

Your soaker hose will arrive **ready to use** with a quick click connector, but you will need to unwind your soaker hose slowly and with care. Connect your Microbore soaker hose to your water source using **4mm barbed connectors** and use **16mm barbed connectors** or **19mm quick click connectors** to attach your Probore soaker hose to your water supply.



Water Saving

When using a soaker hose irrigation system you will be saving the **earth's precious water resources** by using only what your plants need and consuming 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. Check the watered area to see if water has penetrated the soil's top layer.



Solutions That Work

There are lots of products you can use alongside your soaker hose to create a system individually tailored to your garden layout. Barbed elbows can be used to direct the pipe around corners without kinking and use tees to divert water flow three ways. Use barbed connectors that are 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. (Space your soaker hose further apart in soil with high clay content and closer together in more sandy soil). Try not to allow the hose to kink as this prevents the flow of water and can damage the structure of the hose so you may wish to ask someone to help you. Once your hose is fully unwound, leave it out in the sun for at least one hour which should allow any kinks to settle. Microbore and Probore, due to the diameter of the pipe, do not come with quick-click connectors.

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.

- 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 Regulator or Pressure Reducer** to ensure water from your hose is seeping, not spurting.



- Supplying your soaker hose watering system:** If you are using a hose pipe, connect your supply pipe to your pressure reducer using a **tap and quick click connector**. If using **LDPE pipe** connect using a **barbed tap connector**.



- Length:** Soaker hoses are most effective when ran 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
4mm	5 Metres	2m ²
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 hose at the end of your soaker hose. This maintains the required pressure for your soaker hose to run effectively and ensures water reaches along the length of your soaker hose to maintain healthy plants.

- Hold Down Stakes** keep your soaker hose close to the ground for maximum root watering and to avoid trip hazards.



- 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**.

Expanding a Soaker Hose System

Customising Your Soaker Hose System

- Soaker hose can only be run in limited lengths however, you can water larger areas by arranging your soaker hose into different **watering zones**.
- To create a watering system that is capable of **watering your whole garden** you can use tools such as an **water distributor** to create separate watering zones fully customised to your garden.



- You can customise your soaker hose setting it out in straight lines, circular shapes around plants, looped around trees, in a snake pattern through shrubs and borders or set up in difficult to reach areas of the garden.



- Top Tip:** Remember you can get creative with the layout of your soaker hose using **additional connectors** and **pipe** to extend your system and suit your garden's watering needs. **On/Off valves** can be installed throughout your system so you can manually turn off watering to parts of your soaker hose system that may need less frequent watering

For Complex Garden Layouts



You may wish to fit a **Back Flow Preventer** to your tap right at the beginning of your system to protect your water source from contamination.

- Top Tip:** Cover your soaker hose in mulch. This not only improves the appearance of decorative flower beds and protects your hose from frost damage in the winter months but also ensures water from your soaker hose is less likely to evaporate in the air.

Flexible, Reliable and Automated Watering

- In order 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 to program the watering your garden requires even when you are away from your property.



- You can also use a **Dual Outlet Water Timer** to split your system into zones and program regular watering cycles for each zone. Simply program when and how long you would like to water for, attach the timer to your tap or backflow preventer, and use the two outlets to run your system from.

- A note on storage:** It is advisable to bring your soaker hose into a garden shed or garage over the winter months. Drain any remaining water from the hose before bringing it in to ensure the structure of your hose does not become damaged by the elements.

Customer Favourite - HydroSure 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.

Hydrosure soaker hoses offer you a **quality watering solution** and superior value in comparison with the leading brands. The Hydrosure soaker hose is built to last and manufactured using **robust and durable materials** so you can use your soaker hose with confidence throughout the season. The soaker hose structure is designed to be flexible enough to snake around shrubs, yet at the same time features a **tear-resistant wall** allowing you to insert connectors with minimal risk of splitting the hose. The wall thickness is constant along the length of the hose to assure a slow drip and consistent trickle of water for **thriving and healthy plants**.

Hydrosure products are designed for ultimate practicality, we pride ourselves on providing you with solutions to your watering requirements and include some connectors alongside your soaker hose when you order. Not only will you experience a **hassle-free installation**, but you will also **save time and water** compared to when using a hose pipe.



Preparing a Soaker Hose System for Autumn/Winter

Detach from the Water Source

Unlike garden hose pipes, a **soaker hose 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.

To protect against damage caused by freezing and thawing, it is, however, necessary to remove all the **end plugs/caps** in your system using **Pipe Cutters**.

Top Tip: Keep a stock of **End Plugs/Caps** handy as you will need to replace these before the next watering season.



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

Whilst a soaker hose can be left outside during colder weather, your connectors cannot be.

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.

Re-attach your system to the tap and re-place any **End Plugs/Caps** removed in Autumn.

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.

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



Our Recommendations

Microbore Soaker Hose

If you are looking for a soaker hose system to water a small number of potted plants or hanging baskets, a 4mm (9mm external diameter) Microbore soaker hose is an easy and simple way to create a versatile set-up. Microbore Soaker Hose can also be used in hydroponics to aerate the water via a pump.

Please Note: Microbore soaker hose has a maximum run length of up to 10 metres and can emit 1-3 litres of water per hour.

Top Tip: Use [micro pipe](#) to supply water your soaker hose and use [4mm elbows](#), [tees](#) and [joiners](#) to connect them together. Micro pipe can be easily and neatly tucked away from view or fed up to a hanging basket using wall clips.



[Shop Microbore Soaker Hose](#)

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 our [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.

Please Note: 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 to ensure the process of watering your garden is even easier!



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