Installing WaterUps® in a corrugated iron raised garden bed

Web: www.waterups.com.au
Email: sales@waterups.com.au
Phone: 1300 205 550

The WaterUps® Cell

When planning your new garden think about the benefits of using WaterUps® and incorporate wicking systems into your design

Corrugated iron raised beds are probably the cheapest commercially available raised garden bed kits. They come in a range of dimensions. One feature of corrugated iron beds is that they generally come with rounded corners. This makes installing a WaterUps® wicking system more involved.

Things you will need

Tools:

- Jigsaw
- White permanent marker pen
- Power drill
- 25mm hole saw suitable for cutting metal
- Spirit level

Materials:

- Pond liner
- Geotec fabric
- Silicon sealer
- A sheet of corflute (optional)
- Duct tape or gaffer tape

Cutting the WaterUps® cells

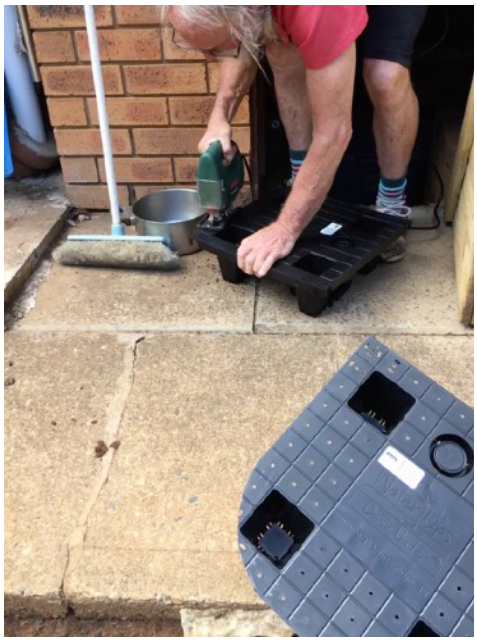
In order to accommodate the rounded corners you will need to cut the WaterUps® cells so that they fit neatly to the internal walls of the raised bed. The best way to do this is to firstly work out how many cells you will need and mark where you will need to cut the cells:

1. Find a flat surface.
2. Set out the cells [feet down] to form a base.
3. The area of cells should be slightly greater than that of the raised bed.
4. Place the corrugated raised bed frame (“frame”) on top of the cells.
5. Work out the best positioning of the frame with the aim to avoid as much as possible cutting through any of the feet. You should note that often it will not be possible to avoid this entirely.
6. Use a white permanent marker pen to trace out the internal perimeter of the raise bed frame.
7. Once you have marked the top of the cells take the frame and place to one side.
8. Collect the cells with the white marks.

You will now need your jigsaw.

1. Cut 2mm inside the white line drawn on each cell.
2. Where required cut all the way to the bottom of any feet.
3. This will need to be done in 2 stages.
4. Firstly cut along the line through the top of each cell.
5. Identify those cells where you will need to cut through the feet.

6. For those affected, you will then need to turn the cell over (feet pointing up) and then cut through the base of the feet using the existing cut as a guide.



Preparing the base for the bed.

Now ensure that the base of the bed is deepened and level.

It is often beneficial to lay down some Corflute sheet to provide a perfectly even base. Put the corrugated iron frame on top. Again check that it is level – a spirit level is useful.

Add the pond liner so that it covers the entire base and up each internal wall approximately 200mm. It helps if you tape the pond liner to the sides to keep it in place until the soil mix is added.

Corrugated iron raised beds often have wing nuts on the internal walls. You can either take out the bottom one to ensure that it does not puncture the pond liner or tape over with gaffer tape.

Now place the cells in their appropriate position to form the base. Insert Joiners as appropriate. Having cut the cells they should fit in very close to the internal perimeter of the frame.

The overflow & inlet pipes

The next step is to identify the optimum position for the overflow pipe:

1. Each cell has 8 semi-circles (2 at each corner) cut out underneath the flat top of each cell to locate the overflow pipe. Choose which cell and placement position you want to use.
2. For ease of drilling it is recommended that you position the overflow pipe in the centre of one of the walls rather than on a corner.
3. Once you have decided on which cell you want to use for the overflow pipe, position the cell in the base of the bed to allow you to mark the pond liner on the internal wall. This is where you will need to drill. Positioning horizontally is straightforward. In order to double check the vertical position to start drilling, take out the relevant cell and using measure up 120mm from the base, ensuring that the pond liner is sitting in the correct position.
4. Use a 25mm hole saw to drill from the inside of the frame through pond liner and then the corrugated iron.
5. Place the overflow pipe into position on the underside of the cell. Use a cable ties to hold it in place.
6. Now thread the overflow pipe through the hole in the pond liner and wall of the corrugated iron frame and place the cell in position. It is easier to do this if you remove the adjacent cells.
7. Use silicon to form a seal around the pond liner, both where it abuts the frame and where it abuts the cell.

Now work out where you want the inlet pipe:

1. For ease of use it is recommended that the inlet pipe be positioned near the overflow pipe so that you can easily see the overflow when filling the bed to know when it is full.
2. There is 1 marked circle on each cell for the inlet pipe.
3. Once you have decided where the pipe will go you will need to cut out the circle.

   TIP: only cut out the circle itself ie, the bit with the writing on it.
4. Before inserting the inlet pipe add silicon to the bottom of the pipe and the insert point.
5. Insert the pipe and seal or glue the pipe in position.

The Geotec fabric

The next step is to place the Geotec fabric around the inside perimeter of the frame. This is to make sure that no potting mix falls down into the water reservoir. Check the following:

1. Generally you should anchor the Geotec to the top of the cells approximately 5 to 10mm in from the perimeter edge. This can be done using the WaterUps Joiners or by using tape.
2. Where you have had to cut through the feet of the cells cover these areas with Corflute, which can be taped in place and then covered in Geotec. If you don't have Corflute cover the cut feet on the perimeter fully cover with Geotec and anchor to ensure that now soil can get into the water catchment below.
3. Continue placing the Geotec around all internal walls of the frame.

Continue with the remainder of the installation in accordance with the WaterUps® Installation Guide.