



# WaterUps® Single-Cell Wicking Bed Instructions

## Kimbriki Eco House & Garden

- An exciting idea for city food gardening
- What is a wicking bed? A garden with a water tank at the base
- Designed so the water 'wicks upwards' into the soil, like a candle wick
- These gardens are self-watering, great when you are not home
- 60-80% less water used than conventional garden beds
- It is almost a 'revolution' in how we can more successfully grow some of our own healthy organic food

## What's in the WaterUps® Single Cell Wicking Bed Kit?

### The Product

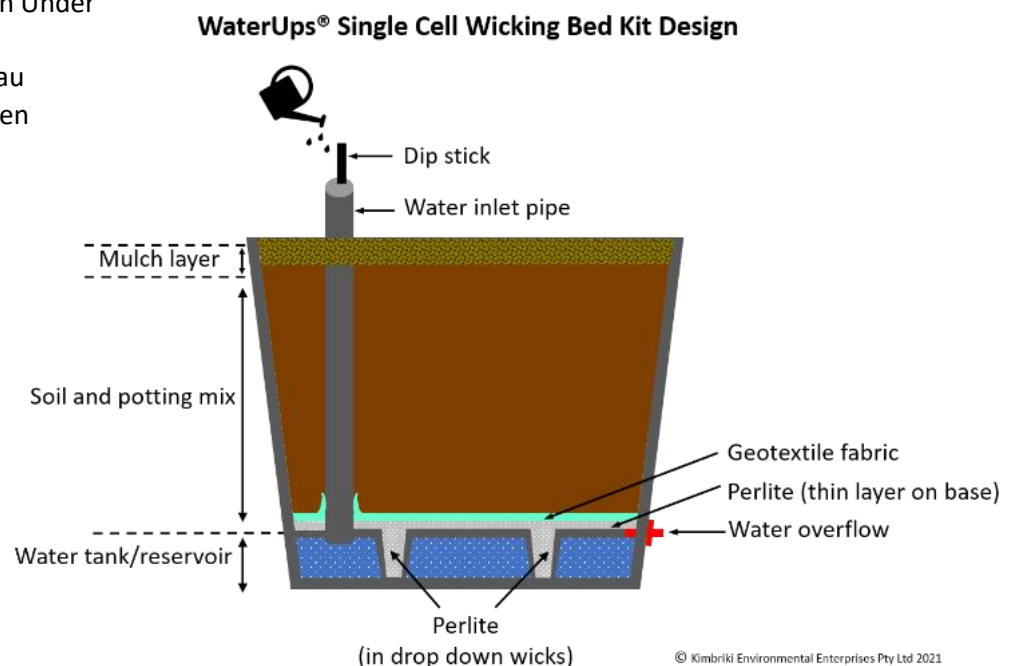
- WaterUps® Single Wicking Bed Kit.
- Designed and manufactured in Australia from post-consumer recycled plastic.

### Product Components List

- 1 x WaterUps® Square Planter Base. Measurements: 480mm (l) x 480mm(w)x 430mm(h).
- 1 x WaterUps® Wicking Cell.
- 1 x bag of medium grade Perlite (approx. 3 litres). Note: Perlite is made from a mineral called Obsidian and has thousands of tiny 'wicking holes' in its structure (it is NOT plastic).
- 1 x sheet of Geotextile fabric.
- 1 x short screw overflow pipe.
- 1 x plastic water inlet filling pipe.
- 1 x dip stick to check water level.
- 1 x WaterUps® Single-Cell Wicking Bed Instructions.

### Product Support & Backup

- Facebook: WaterUps from Down Under
- Instagram: water\_ups
- Website: [www.WaterUps.com.au](http://www.WaterUps.com.au)
- Plus Kimbriki Eco House & Garden support [www.kimbriki.com](http://www.kimbriki.com)



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# How to Set Up Your Exciting New Wicking Food Farm Garden

## Assembly Instructions

Make yourself familiar with the process of wicking beds and the basic principles.

1. Check Product Components List.
2. Get the WaterUps® Wicking Cell and place it on the floor. Line up the three tabs on the water inlet pipe with the three small holes at the edge of the cut out round hole. Push the water inlet pipe down firmly until it clicks and locks into position.
3. On the edge opposite the water inlet pipe there are two-semi circle cut outs. Place the short screw overflow pipe from underneath into the right-hand side semi-circle with the thread facing outward. Push up firmly to click and lock into place.
4. Find the position of the overflow hole in the WaterUps® square planter base.
5. Holding the inlet pipe, lower the edge of the WaterUps® wicking cell with the short screw overflow pipe, down into the square planter. Push the overflow pipe through the hole in the planter and the lower the rest of the WaterUps® Wicking Cell into the base of the planter.
6. Place the rubber washer over the short screw overflow and screw on nut with the flat side facing inwards flush against the planter. Screw up firmly by hand.
7. **NOTE: Dry Perlite is very dusty. We recommend that you pour 1 to 2 litres of water into the Perlite bag BEFORE putting the perlite into the 4 drop down wicks in the WaterUps® wicking cell.** Empty entire bag (supplied), lightly firm down into the 4 wicks and place remainder over the whole base of the WaterUps® wicking cell and level by hand.
8. Place the Geotextile fabric flat over Perlite ensuring no Perlite is visible (cut a slit or hole in the fabric where the water inlet pipe is placed and slide over the pipe so the fabric lays flat on the Perlite layer).
9. Position the WaterUps® Single-Cell Wicking Bed on a level surface - this is very important to ensure the water holding tank is level and holds its maximum capacity of water (use a spirit level if necessary).
10. If you want to raise the height of the WaterUps® Single-Cell Wicking Bed for more convenience, place it on top of some bricks or an upside-down milk crate.
11. Add your growing medium:
  - The planter is now ready to add premium potting mix and organic fertilisers (e.g. worm castings, mature home compost, "Super 6", cow manure or a combination of these). **Use a ratio of** approximately 4 parts of potting mix to 1 part organic fertilisers
  - fill up the planter to about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with premium potting mix
  - then fill last  $\frac{1}{4}$  with worm castings, mature home compost, "Super 6", cow manure or a combination of these
  - mix these into the top 10-15 cm
  - fill to top of box, then lightly firm down mix to allow space for mulch.
12. Now fill up the tank through the water inlet pipe until water is flowing out your overflow pipe.
13. Place water level indicator (dipstick) all the way into the water inlet filling pipe. Lift straight out and mark with either a permanent pen or score a groove at the full water level mark (calibrating the dipstick). **NOTE: We recommend that you keep the lid on the inlet pipe to stop mosquitos breeding and to keep out stray debris.**
14. You are now ready to plant up your WaterUps® Single-Cell Wicking Bed and enjoy an abundance of produce.

# Management of your WaterUps® Single-Cell Wicking Bed

## Planting a Wicking Bed

1. Plant seeds or seedlings as you would in any new garden bed. We like to plant seedlings quite closely (8-10cm apart) and then thin out later and eat the young plants you are thinning out.
2. **Water** in well after planting.
3. Apply a thin layer of **mulch** to the surface, e.g., sugar cane, lucerne, etc.
4. Water plants from the **TOP for the first week** or so after planting, until the plants are 'standing up' and looking vibrant.
5. Then gradually **REDUCE watering from the TOP** to encourage the plants to send their roots down to the moist soil which is 'wicking-up' from the water tank.
6. Now water from the **BOTTOM** via the water inlet pipe. Check the dipstick regularly to ensure the water level is not too low, **especially in hot weather**. Fill up the water tank as required, until water pours out of the overflow pipe.
7. It is still **OK to water from the top** if you want to. It is also ok if rain falls on your wicking bed but as your main practice, keep your plants watered from the BOTTOM.

## Managing Plant Health and Harvesting

1. Always **take out /cut off any dead leaves or sick looking** plants (daily or weekly).
2. Use a **FOLIAR FERTILISER** every 10-14 days, e.g. liquid seaweed and liquid fish products mixed at correct rates. Foliar feeding refers to feeding plants by spraying liquid fertiliser onto the foliage (leaves) of the plants. You can also apply with a watering can. This is a wonderful thing to do for container growing of vegies and herbs.  
**NOTE: Usually wait 24 hours after spraying, before eating produce.**
3. Train your climbing plants as they grow, e.g. cucumbers, beans, peas, etc.
4. Harvest leafy annual plants by taking off the **OUTSIDE** leaves to eat. The new leaves in the **CENTRE** of the plant will now grow quickly, and then a week or more later you will be able to harvest again more **OUTSIDE** leaves to eat, e.g. silverbeet, spinach, non-hearting lettuces, parsley, coriander, etc.

## Maintenance In-between Crops

1. Take out dead plant and root material.
2. **Dig & 'fluff-up'** the soil to depth of 10-20 cm. **NOTE: Be careful NOT to dig into your wick zone.**
3. Add some more worm castings, mature home compost, Super 6 or Cow Manure, or a combination of these. Mix these into the top 10-15 cm.
4. Water in.
5. Add some fresh mulch to the surface.
6. Preferably **let the soil 'rest' for a few days.**
7. Now plant new seedlings or seeds, following Planting A Wicking Bed points (above).

For more information  
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or contact via Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre  
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