



# Soaker Hoses

## *Soaker Hoses Help You Save!*

Soaker hoses are an inexpensive and flexible alternative to drip irrigation systems. They are easy to use and can be moved around just like garden hoses and adjusted to the desired length. Soaker hoses have thousands of tiny pores that drip water slowly and evenly at low pressure. This allows the water to seep directly into the soil and water where plants need it the most—at the root zone. Soaker hoses are especially effective for watering gardens, shrubs, perennial borders and areas surrounding shrubs and trees.

Some of the advantages associated with soaker hoses include:

**TIME**—no more moving sprinklers or hand watering in garden beds

**MONEY**—using less water means smaller water bills

**PLANTS**—they get just the right amount of water

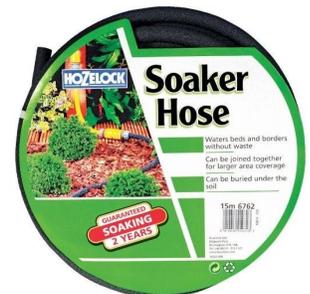
**ENVIRONMENT**—you're saving water and using a recycled product



Illustration of a soaker hose in a flower garden

## *Tips for Success with Soaker Hoses*

- \* Keep soaker hose kink free. Kinks in the line block water flow, so uncoil the hose and allow it to relax before laying it in the planting bed.
- \* Flush the soaker hose when you first install it and a few times during the season. Open the end cap, turn on the water and flush out any debris. Replace the cap.
- \* Cover your soaker hose with 2-3 inches of mulch to retain moisture and protect from sun damage. Soaker hose should not be buried in the soil and be sure to locate and move it before digging in the garden.
- \* Keep in mind that outdoor faucets are meant for temporary connections. For water quality protection, turn your water off and disconnect your soaker hose between uses.
- \* When disconnecting the soaker hose, plug the open end so that soil and insects can't clog it.



## How to Achieve Success with Soaker Hoses

### 1. Find the Right Site

Soaker hoses are only successful when used correctly. That means finding the right location is very important. Soaker hoses belong in flower and garden beds. For lawn watering, use a sprinkler and use drip irrigation on steep slopes or when you are ready to upgrade to a more efficient irrigation method.

### 2. Start at the Faucet

Always connect a backflow preventer to your faucet first (District Code). Next, connect a timer to water just enough each time. Add a pressure regulator (10 or 12 psi) before attaching your garden hose.

### 3. Too Long is Wrong

The maximum length for an effective soaker hose is 100 feet. Soaker hoses come in 25, 50, 75 and 100 feet. Purchase the length that best fits your planted areas and lay your soaker hose only in these areas. Use a garden hose to connect your soaker hose to the faucet.

### 4. Keep it Level

Soaker hoses deliver water most uniformly on level ground. They do not allow water to seep effectively on slopes or in vertical positions like rockeries.

### 5. Use Correct Spacing

Lay lines 12-18 inches apart on sandy soil and 18-24 inches apart on loam or clay soil. Keep the soaker hose at least 1-2 inches from the base of established plants. With new plants or annuals, lay the hose closer to the plant and move it away from the base as it grows.

### 6. Slow the Flow

Turn the faucet on just enough so the entire hose is seeping NOT spraying. The amount may vary for every faucet, so try turning the faucet on a quarter turn first and adjust up or down as necessary.

### 7. Perfect Your Timing

Start running your soaker hose about 30 minutes twice a week. After a watering day, check your soil to see if the moisture has penetrated several inches, then adjust accordingly. When you find the magic number for your conditions, use a timer to water the same number of minutes every time.

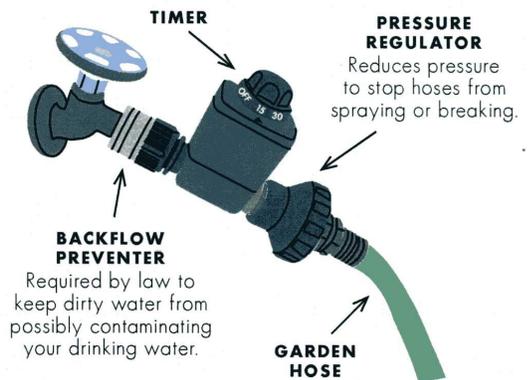


Diagram of connection set-up at the faucet for a soaker hose

