

Planting guidance

Making the most of your Amberol self-watering planter

Healthy plants start with the right compost.

For best performance from our self-watering planters, we recommend using a high-quality compost with consistent particle size and minimal wood fibre content.

This helps maintain effective capillary action and prevents compaction or waterlogging over time.

High-quality composts are more likely to:

- Allow water to move evenly throughout the planter
- Support stronger root development
- Reduce the risk of dry patches
- Prevent excessive compaction as the compost settles
- Maintain consistent moisture levels for longer



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Planting your self-watering planter

Step 1: Fill with compost

Fill the planter using high-quality compost, gently firming as you go.

Avoid over-compacting the compost as this can restrict root growth and water movement.

Step 2: Plant as required

Arrange your plants according to the desired display. Ensure roots are fully covered and plants are positioned firmly within the compost.

Step 3: Water thoroughly

Following planting, water from above to help settle the compost and establish good contact between plant roots and the growing medium.

Step 4: Fill the reservoir

Once planted, fill the self-watering reservoir in accordance with the planter's instructions. This ensures the self-watering system can begin operating as designed.



Frequently asked questions

Can I use peat-free compost?

Yes. Many peat-free composts perform very well in self-watering planters.

However, for optimum results, choose a high-quality product with a consistent structure and limited wood fibre content.

Why is capillary action important?

Capillary action allows water to travel from the reservoir into the compost, where it is available to plant roots.

Maintaining a suitable compost structure helps this process work effectively.

What causes waterlogging or poor performance?

Excessive compaction, or composts containing high levels of wood fibre and inconsistent particle sizes can affect water movement through the planter over time.

Using a suitable compost helps avoid these issues.

Ongoing care

For best results:

- Check water levels regularly, particularly during warm weather
- Remove dead flowers and foliage to encourage continued growth
- Top up compost if natural settling occurs
- Feed plants as recommended for the plant species being used
- Replace seasonal displays when required

