

Europlanters

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR PLANTERS

GRP Planters

- Maintenance:** GRP is maintenance free! It will not corrode using fertilisers or chemical feeds for plant growth. Minor scratches can be removed using a car paint restorer with a fine polishing compound for a gloss finish. (This is not advisable for matt / satin / metallic finishes). Deeper scratches can be rectified using wet and dry sandpaper followed by a touch up spray can.
- Cleaning:** GRP products can be cleaned using warm soapy water. Use an environmentally friendly detergent when possible.
Do not use abrasive cleaners as they will scratch the surface. Jet washers can usually be used without damage to the paint if on a very low setting, but it is recommended to test a small area first in an unseen area.

Metal Planters

- Maintenance:** Galvanised Steel and PPC Metal is maintenance free, however if the coating is damaged this may reduce the life of your planters. Metal planters must be lifted slightly off the ground using glass packers or similar to allow free drainage of the soil and to ensure they are not sat in water.
- Cleaning:** Galvanised Steel and Polyester Powder Coated (PPC) Metal products can be cleaned using warm soapy water.
Do not use abrasive cleaners as they will scratch the surface and eventually this would wear away the protection.
- Stainless Steel Maintenance:** Chemicals in compost can cause corrosion even in Stainless Steel planters. We always coat the inside with a protective layer of GRP or paint. Stainless Steel planters are not suitable for areas near salt water as this can reduce the life of the planter unless 316 Grade is specified.
- Cleaning:** Stainless Steel products can be cleaned using warm soapy water. Use an environmentally friendly detergent when possible.
Do not use abrasive cleaners as they will scratch the surface and damage the brushed or polished finish. You can use a light coating of 'baby oil' to give a lustre.

Timber Planters & seating

- Maintenance:** Seating and cladding timber planks will weather like all hardwoods and become silvery in appearance after roughly 12 months depending on sun light and weather conditions. Our hardwood timber will have been coated with Osmo UV-protection oil. Osmo recommend that dependent on the degree of weathering, Osmo UV-protection oil should be reapplied to timber every 6 months. We recommend all our redwood planters that have been painted are re-painted on an annual basis to avoid rot.
- Cleaning:** Timber can be cleaned using warm soapy water. Use an environmentally friendly detergent when possible.
Do not use abrasive cleaners as they will scratch the treated surface and allow water ingress. Jet washers are not recommended to clean timber as this would damage the protective layer and reduce the life expectancy.

Plastic Planters

- Maintenance:** Plastic is maintenance free! It will not corrode when using fertilisers or chemical feeds for plant growth.
- Cleaning:** Plastic products can be cleaned using warm soapy water.
Do not use abrasive cleaners as they will scratch the surface. Jet washers can usually be used if on a very low setting but it is recommended to test a small area first in an unseen area.
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GUIDELINES FOR PLANTING

Planting Recommendations:

Although our planters are extremely durable, when planting up always protect them by covering with a protective layer or use the transport wrapping to ensure that drainage media or compost does not scratch the surface. Please note our planters are strong but will not cope with a tonne bag of soil or Hydroleca or a person standing on the lip. Damage caused this way is not covered under warranties.

Ensure that all planters being used outside have drain holes this will allow water to drain freely and avoid waterlogging and potential bowing of the sides. Always put a geotextile membrane at the bottom as this helps to filter any water coming through the drain holes and prevents soil from being washed away, therefore less mess on your patio. It is recommended to use 5 mm glazing packers to help free drainage especially under metal planters as an air gap will prolong their life from corrosion.

From the bottom up:

- Ensure drain holes are provided.
- Line the base with a geotextile membrane.
- Fill 20% of your planter with a drainage medium, such as Hydroleca, to allow free drainage of any water going into your planter.
- Preferably add another geotextile membrane to hold the compost in place.
- Add a water retaining solution e.g. root refreshers.
- Fill with a planting medium.
- Your planter is now ready for trees, plants and shrubs!

Weight Saving

This is necessary where roof loading is restricted or castors fitted to your planters. Polystyrene can be added to reduce the volume of compost. This can be in blocks to reduce the planting depth or chips added to the planting medium combined with Hydroleca. Adding sheet polystyrene to the sides will also protect your plant's roots from extreme temperature conditions.

Use a lightweight soil with a low clay content and water retention as this adds considerably to the dead weight of the planter.

Watering Solutions

- Use an irrigation system, this can be a controlled watering solution with a timer and moisture sensor to reduce the amount of water provided. This is maintenance free.
- Mona Tanks, these are water tanks buried just below the roots - they need filling regularly.
- Root Refreshers - a water retaining polymer in a capillary matting cushion. Placed just below the roots these will refresh themselves from watering or rainfall. Needs little maintenance.
- Egg crate layer - this will retain a small amount of water and should be placed just below the root systems - multi layers can be used. This is maintenance free.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES MAY INVALIDATE YOUR GUARANTEE.

