

Vertical Veg.

The 'Vertical Veg' Planting Panel

- **Our Company:** Your panel is manufactured in the Western Cape by a diverse South African team.
- **Content:** This is a truly South African product having more than 90% local content (by weight). Most of the components are also manufactured locally in the Western Cape, reducing the carbon footprint even further.
- **The Material:** The fabric is a 'Fibertex Geotextile' which is sturdy and tough. Usually used in the construction industry it can withstand rain, snow, and weathering. "The fabric is UV stabilised, resistant to strong acids and alkalis and cannot be attacked by fungi or rot". Mounted on a wall surface, with plants in the pockets and watering, the exposure to intense, harmful UV rays is minimised.
- **The Backing** : The body of the panel is backed with thick plastic to prevent water seeping through onto the wall.
- **The Pockets:** The pockets have been especially designed to give a generous amount of space for healthy root systems – which aid in the growth and general health of all plants.
- **The Eyelets:** The eyelets have been placed strategically to hold the panel firmly - so that with watering, your panel will not sag or distort. They also act as guidelines for mounting.
- **Our Product:** The Panels come with a 1 Year Guarantee*, but we're sure that you will enjoy many more years of happy plant-growing!

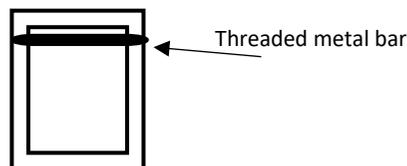
*T's & C's apply.

How do I put up my 'Vertical Veg' Panel?

- We recommend that you mount your panel onto a wooden frame * before fixing it onto a standard brick wall. This allows for air movement between the panel and the wall, and prevents the build-up of damp.

*Frames can be made up for you. Please contact us for a quote.

- Panels can also be mounted onto any other structure, as long as it is sufficiently strong to take the weight of soil and water. A wooden structure such as a sturdy trellis requires using only hooks, nails, or even cable ties, through the eyelets.
- For mounting panels round a watertank we recommend using stainless steel cable with a turn buckle attached. The panels can then be tied to the steel cable with plastic cable-ties through the eyelets.
- If you have a 'vibracrete' (concrete) wall, mount the panel on a frame (see instructions alongside). A threaded metal bar should be inserted below the top baton (see diagram below). Drill a hole through both uprights, thread the bar through and end off with lock nuts and a washer on each end of the bar.



Use 'S' hooks (available from garden or hardware shops or purchased from us) to hook under the bar and baton and over the top of the wall. This method reduces the stresses on the screws forming the frame.

- The Balcony Panel is placed over a balcony and is secured by the 'side-release' clasps through the balustrade. This ensures that it is not blown away by the wind! The side with the two large pockets faces away from you and the 4 smaller ones face in to your balcony space.

How to Install your Panel (see specific brochures for each size).

You will need the following

- *Treated wood batons*
- *Smooth shank YP screws.*
- *95mm Rawl bolts OR 8mm x 100mm nail-in anchor screws.*
- *6mm x 30mm Stainless steel coach screws*
- *6mm x 32mm x 15 mm Stainless steel fender washers.*

Constructing a Frame

- Use your panel as a guide for placement of the batons.
- Place the *central baton* in line with the eyelets of the panel.
- Use the *5mm x 75mm* screws to join the batons – 2 at each joint.

Mounting the Frame

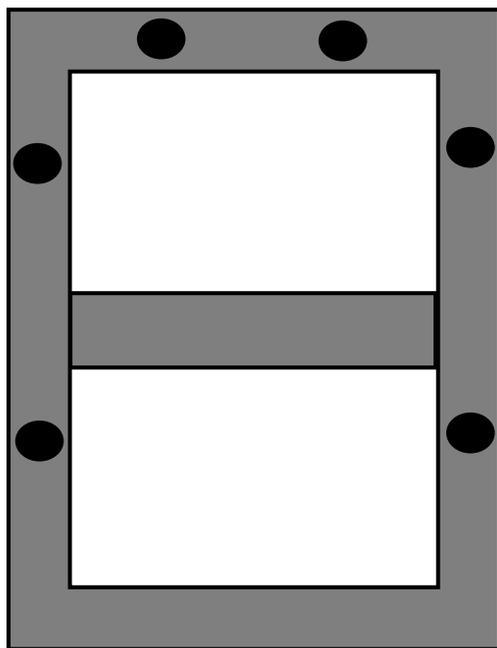
- Fix the frame to the wall with the Rawl bolts or Nail-in anchor screws.
- Make sure the bolt / screw heads are deep enough into the wood so they do not interfere with the panel.

Attaching the Panel

- Attach the panel to the frame through the eyelets using the washers and the coach screws
- OR**
- the panel can be hooked through the eyelets onto appropriate-sized screws placed in the wood.

Construction and Mounting Diagram -

A general representation.



 = Position of Rawl plugs / nail-in anchors

Planting Instructions

- Your panel is designed to hold the soil and to enable water to trickle through the fabric of each pocket.
- Plant directly into each pocket as you would for a pot but **DO NOT** put stones or any other drainage chips at the base.

Planting Medium

- The planting medium needs to be lighter than for an ordinary pot since it will be hanging on a wall.
 - For gardeners in Cape Town: we recommend Master Organics - Keith Kirstens' Patio Mix. Available at nurseries and garden shops.
 - For other Gardeners: Potting soil used can be 'lightened' in a number of ways.
 - a. add cocopeat (coconut) fibre:
For herbs and soft vegetables, use a planting medium made up as follows:
1/3 cocopeat fibre + 2/3 good potting soil well mixed together.
This sort of mixture is now readily available from Nurseries.
- OR**
- a. add vermiculite:
Vermiculite or other water-retention product is used in a similar ratio when using a sandy soil for plants such as succulents.

Planting the pocket

- Fill each pocket about half way with soil mixture.
- Add usual planting medium additives such as bone meal or slow-release foods etc. as you would for general planting in a pot.
- Place plants into the pockets and top up with the soil mixture.
- Make sure it is well filled so that the pockets look fat' and rounded.
- Fill to about 2cm from the top (if you do not leave this space the water will run off over the edge).



- Water-in well.

Water requirements

- Remember to water the top of the panel more than the bottom, as gravity pulls water down, so the top will naturally be drier than the bottom.

It is recommended that plants that prefer drier conditions (like Sages and Thymes) be placed at the top, and those that prefer wetter conditions (like Mints and Watercress), at the bottom.

- An irrigation system can be installed.

Irrigation lines can be placed at each row with drippers into each pocket. Differential dripper 'nipples' can be used – i.e. those with a high flow rate on the top row and those with a low/slow flow rate on the lower levels.

- A trough or box of plants with a drip tray, can be placed on the floor below the panel which will then catch the water dripping off the panel.
- A gutter made of wide PVC piping can also be attached to the base of the panel and the run-off can be directed else-where.



Maintenance

Maintain as you would for plants in pots - i.e. they need water and food more often than those in open ground.

The panels should be placed in such a way as to be able to get a few hours of sunlight a day – which most food plants require. An east facing wall (morning sun) tends to be less harsh sunlight.

Follow standard gardening guidelines for plants in pots and garden according your plants' needs: whether they need sun or shade, more or less water etc.

These panels are ideal for food-plant growing, such as herbs and soft stemmed veggies, but can be used for any plants.