

Self-Watering Systems

TerraCast®

PRODUCTS

Installation and Care Instruction



Getting Started

The TerraCast® Self-Watering Planter Reservoir is designed to turn any planter into a self-watering planter. This guide will help you install the reservoir and prepare it for cold weather conditions.

Step 1: Prepare the Planter Base

If your planter did not come with pre-drilled drainage holes (for example, if ordered without them from TerraCast®), drill appropriate drainage holes before proceeding. This is especially important for outdoor installations to ensure proper water management.

(Optional) Add a layer of gravel to the bottom of your decorative planter to enhance drainage. You may cover the gravel with filter fabric to prevent soil from entering the gravel layer, especially if your planter has drainage holes.

Step 2: Position the Reservoir

Place the TerraCast® Self-Watering Reservoir on top of the gravel layer at the bottom of the planter.

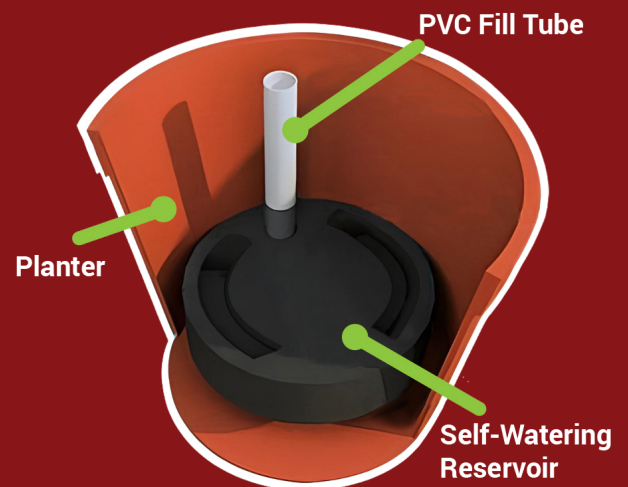
Note: Ensure the distance between the reservoir and your plant root zone is 2" to 10". The water in the reservoir travels approximately 12" upward and 9" laterally, so positioning is key. For larger planters with small plants, backfill beneath the reservoir to bring it closer to the root zone.

Items You Will Need:

- TerraCast® Self-Watering Reservoir
- 1-1/4" PVC Fill Tube (included)
- Lightweight, fibrous soil
- Plants

Optional Materials:

- PVC Adhesive (to secure fill tube)
- PVC Cutter (to trim fill tube height)
- Dip Stick (to check water levels)
- Gravel (for extra drainage)
- Filter fabric



Step 3: Install the Fill Tube

Apply a small amount of PVC adhesive around the bottom edge of the fill tube, then insert the 1-1/4" PVC pipe into the reservoir. This will secure the tube in place and help prevent it from being pulled out.

Step 4: Add Soil

Fill the planter with lightweight, fibrous soil to your desired level. Lightly tap the soil into place, but do not pack it tightly.

Step 5: Plant and Water

Place your plants into the soil and backfill around them. Pour water directly into the fill tube until the reservoir is full. For the first watering only, also water the soil thoroughly to help it begin absorbing moisture from the reservoir.

Step 6: Ongoing Watering

Refill the reservoir as needed by adding water through the fill tube. Watering frequency may vary depending on climate:

- Hot, dry climates: every few days to 1 week
- Moderate climates: every 1–2 weeks
- Cool or damp climates: less frequently

Use a dip stick to check water levels inside the reservoir (optional).

Reminder: Even if the reservoir is empty, the soil may still hold sufficient moisture.

Winterization Instructions (Cold Climate Care)

TerraCast® planters are crafted from durable, weather-resistant LLDPE resin that performs reliably year-round, even in freezing conditions, without cracking or splitting. The self-watering reservoir inside is also made from the same long-lasting resin, but because it is designed to hold water, taking a few simple precautions during prolonged freeze–thaw cycles will help ensure optimal performance for years to come. The PVC fill tube is a functional component of the system and, like most PVC parts, may be more susceptible to extreme cold if water is left inside it. Proper winterization protects these components and helps maintain your planter system's long service life.

Recommendation: In regions with prolonged or extreme freezing conditions, we recommend removing the reservoir for the winter. If removal is not feasible, the reservoir may remain in place, but you should follow the winter preparation steps below.



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For Reservoir Removal:

Step 1: Stop Filling Before Frost

As temperatures begin to drop in fall, discontinue adding water to the reservoir. Allow any remaining water to be absorbed by plants or evaporate naturally.

Step 2: Drain the Reservoir

Empty all remaining water. Use the overflow hole or tilt the reservoir gently to remove trapped moisture.

Step 3: Remove the Fill Tube

Detach the PVC fill tube and store it indoors. Ensure it is fully dry before storage.

Step 4: Store the Reservoir

Place the empty reservoir and fill tube in a dry, sheltered location until spring.

Step 5: Protect the Planter and Plants (If Needed)

If the planter is a TerraCast® planter made from LLDPE resin, no winter protection is required.

If the planter is not from TerraCast® and made from other materials, it may require winter protection—such as applying mulch, wrapping the planter, or covering it with a frost blanket—depending on its material and the plants inside.

For In-Place Winterization:

Step 1: Drain the Reservoir

Completely empty all water from the reservoir to prevent freezing and potential damage.

Step 2: Elevate the Planter

Place pot feet or stands under the planter to lift it off the ground. This improves drainage, prevents direct contact with moisture, and reduces the risk of freeze damage.

Step 3: Insulate the Planter

Wrap the planter with insulating materials such as bubble wrap or burlap. Secure the wrapping with twine or garden pins so it stays in place during winter weather.

Step 4: Cover for Protection

Drape a tarp or frost blanket over the planter to shield it from snow, ice, and extreme cold. Ensure the cover is secure but allows some airflow to prevent mold growth.

Step 5: Protect the Plants

Add a layer of mulch or straw over the soil to insulate plant roots against deep freezes.

Note: Even frost-resistant materials can be damaged if water freezes inside them. Proper winterization extends product life and helps ensure your planter is ready for the next growing season.

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