

How to Make a Self-Watering Bucket

You will need:

- Two 5 gallon buckets

NOTE:

These buckets should be unused, new, or food grade containers.

Do NOT use 'used' construction or paint buckets as chemicals may have leached into the plastic!

- One 17-18" pipe (3/4" to 1" diameter)
- Five cloth or nylon strips (each approx. 2" wide by 8" long)
- A drill or sharp cutting tool

Construction Steps:

Trace the end of the pipe about 3/4" in from the edge to cut hole in bottom to insert pipe, as a 'fill tube'.

Mark five spots to drill 1/2" holes for wick inserts – one in center & four spaced around bucket bottom.

Then, mark & drill smaller drainage holes between the wick holes (8 total).

After drilling all the marked holes in the bottom of the inside bucket, tie a knot on one end of each of the five cloth wick strips. Then, pull each strip down through its hole to suspend by its knot.

Cut the bottom of the pipe to create a slant edge for proper flow into the water reservoir.

Insert wicking bucket into water bucket to mark the 'overflow hole' about 1/2" below the bottom of that inside wicking bucket. Pull buckets apart & drill the overflow hole in the "outside" bucket.

Place the wicking bucket inside the bottom water bucket and insert the Fill Tube.

Fill the inside bucket with a mixture of 'potting soil' and 'vermiculite'.

NOTE: Can use potting soil with or without fertilizer.



Plant, Water, and Grow!!!

Plant your selected plant(s) and water with fertilizer.

Pour water into 'fill tube' until water burps from the 'overflow Hole' showing that the water reservoir is full.

Water into 'fill hole' every 3-5 days or so to keep the reservoir full.

Apply fertilizer to water every 3 to 4 weeks and enjoy your "garden"!

NOTE:

For a tall tomato or vine plant, insert support.

This sample pictured shows a tomato cage with its clipped/shortened legs inserted into the bucket.



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