

# AQUAvalve™

simple  
guidelines



### Ensuring that the AQUAvalve floods and drains correctly

Making sure your AQUAvalve floods and drains correctly is simply achieved and only takes a few seconds.

Hold the AQUAvalve at eye level so that you can see the yellow silicon fitted to the top float resting on the hole below it. The yellow silicon must create a tight seal when touching the hole.

If it looks like it is not sitting parallel on the hole below simply lift the top float and apply pressure to one side of the yellow silicon, drop the float and hold at eye level again. Repeat the procedure again if necessary.

### Use the AQUAvalve image above as a guide.

Carrying out the simple procedure above will ensure that your AQUAvalve floods to approximately 20mm and drains completely before it re-fills the tray. Generally the above procedure is only necessary when you have taken your AQUAvalve apart for cleaning purposes & then re-assembled it. It is however prudent to check the position of the yellow silicon when the AQUAvalve is new.

**1** At the end of your growing season clean the AQUAvalve using warm soapy water. Using an old tooth brush will help.

The AQUAvalve is easily disassembled. The top float will slide all the way across and the bottom float is unclipped from its pivoting position. The circular discs fitted to the top float can also be removed by using pliers to grip the raised point.

At this point it is advisable to remove the yellow silicones to avoid them being lost.

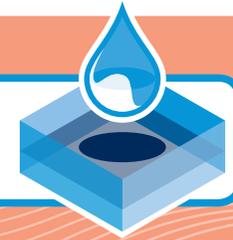
**2** It is also handy to have a paper clip at hand so that you can push it through the AQUAvalve nozzle, this will remove any lime scale build up that may have occurred during the growing season.

Blowing through the AQUAvalve nozzle will also help to remove any build up. Do not under any circumstances use a drill & drill bit to clear the AQUAvalve nozzle.

**This will potentially damage the AQUAvalve beyond repair.**

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# AQUA BOX



setup  
instructions

**1**

Remove all the contents and check all the parts are present.

Check the contents list below.

### AQUAbox Kit contents list (Ref AQUAbox/1)

- 1x AQUAbox
- 1x AQUAvalve
- 1x Circular Spirit Level
- 1x 6mm Top Hat Grommet
- 1x 2 meter length of 6mm pipe
- 2x Tee Shaped Capillary Matting
- 1x Full Instructions



**2**



Half fill your raised bed with good quality compost, freely available from your local garden centre.

**3**



If the circular spirit level is not fitted into the lid of your AQUAbox, simply insert the level into the small hole in the lid. Push firmly to ensure it is positioned correctly.

**4**



**Advice**

The circular spirit level is used to ensure that the AQUAbox is level once positioned in your raised bed.

Next take your 6mm Top Hat Grommet and push it through the hole in the front of the AQUAbox. Ensure you insert the 6mm grommet from the outside, as shown in the image.

**Advice**

If you find it difficult to insert the grommet a little smear of washing-up liquid around the hole will help the grommet slide in easily.

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Take the 2 meter length of 6mm pipe and push it, (from the outside) through the 6mm Top Hat Grommet, as shown in the image. Pull the pipe through the grommet so that there is approximately 150mm inside the AQUAbox.



The AQUAvalve can now be connected to the 6mm pipe. Unscrew the yellow collar and push the pipe through it. Push the 6mm pipe onto the nozzle of the AQUAvalve and then replace the yellow collar by screwing it onto the AQUAvalve.

**Advice** Do **NOT** over tighten the yellow collar. When you feel the collar tightening **STOP**. Over tightening is not necessary and can cause damage to the nozzle of your AQUAvalve.



Once you have connected the AQUAvalve to the 6mm pipe, simply pull the pipe back through so that all the excess pipe inside the AQUAbox is pulled out. As you pull the pipe out lower the AQUAvalve so that it locates onto the Tee section in the AQUAbox.

Push the AQUAvalve onto the Tee ensuring that it is securely fitted.



Once you are happy that the AQUAvalve is connected to the AQUAbox and all the excess pipe has been pulled out. Then take your 2 pieces of Tee shaped capillary matting.

From the outside of the AQUAbox thread both pieces of matting through each slot either side of the AQUAvalve.

**Advice** Make sure that the end of the capillary matting is touching the base of the AQUAbox either side of the AQUAvalve, as shown in the image.



Now you have assembled the AQUAbox place it in the centre of your raised bed on top of the compost in your half filled raised bed, as shown in image.

**Advice** To provide good irrigation to the bed make sure the matting on both sides of the AQUAbox slopes slightly away from the AQUAbox. This will in turn allow the water to travel along the matting more easily. Remember water will always travel along a downward slope much better than an upward slope.

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If you are happy with the position of your AQUAbox, close & lock the lid, this will prevent any soil getting inside the AQUAbox, then fill the rest of the raised bed with compost. A max soil level indicator is shown on the face of the AQUAbox where the tube is connected.

Use the circular level in the AQUAbox lid to ensure the AQUAbox is level once in position. Applying pressure to any part of the lid will help you ensure the AQUAbox is level.

**Advice** Do **NOT** cover the AQUAbox, it should sit slightly above the final level of the soil in your raised bed. As shown in the diagram.



Now that the AQUAbox is in position, with the lid still closed water the compost heavily with a watering can or hosepipe. This will prepare the compost for your seeds, small plants or bulbs.

Allow the raised bed to drain for half an hour and then plant up following the guidelines on the seed packet or from a gardening book. Water the plants through again to bed them in.

At this point there is no need to turn your AQUAbox on as there is plenty of water already in the compost to supply the seeds/plants for up to 3-4 weeks.



After the plants have established themselves over a period of 3-4 weeks you can then turn on your AQUAbox. Feed in the compost will supply the small plants for up to 6-8 weeks so there is no need to add liquid feed to the water supply in your tank. Start adding feed to the water after the 6th-8th week, following the directions on the feed bottle or packet.

The image shows the AQUAbox connected to a 350 litre water butt using a Click-fit connector with a 6mm option. The AQUAbox can easily be fitted to any of the AutoPot tanks, inc the 30 litre & 47 litre tanks.

Many AQUAboxes can be connected to a single tank using AutoPot fittings. When using large numbers of AQUAboxes over a large distance it is advisable to use 16mm pipe (hosepipe) as the main supply pipe, reducing the pipe size at each AQUAbox point.



As the plants grow the roots in the raised bed will search for the water source, this being the AQUAbox and the capillary matting attached to it. The roots will instinctively head towards the capillary matting and attach themselves to it. In turn drawing water from the AQUAbox.

Keep the lid on the AQUAbox closed at all times, this will prevent rain from washing soil inside the AQUAbox. Only open the lid to inspect the inside and around the AQUAvalve. If you see any slugs remove them as they have a tendency to interfere with the moving parts.

Over time you will notice that the compost in the soil will seem dry. There is no need to be concerned as the water is being supplied by the capillary matting below the soil level. If you wish to use additional water in very hot periods this can be easily applied with a watering can or hosepipe.

Once the plants have established themselves the roots will search out for the water, occasionally they can be found following the capillary matting and into the AQUAbox. If you find that roots have found their way into the AQUAbox, simply lift the ends of the matting in the AQUAbox, this in turn will lift the roots. Take a pair of scissors and cut the roots off, making sure that you don't leave any behind in the AQUAbox. Replace the capillary matting making sure that the ends of the matting touch the bottom of the AQUAbox either side of the AQUAvalve.