

Soaker Hoses

Good for your **Garden**,
your **Wallet**, and
our **Environment**



Soaker Hoses Help You Save

Sprinklers waste water on over-spray, runoff, and evaporation. By allowing water to seep directly into the soil, soaker hoses put water exactly where your plants need it - at the root zone. So you save:

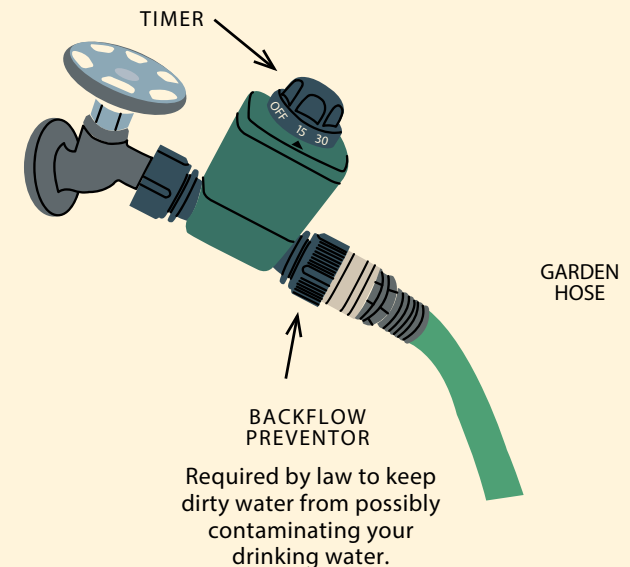
- * **Time** - no more moving sprinklers or hand watering in garden beds
- * **Money** - using less water means smaller water bills
- * **Your Plants** - they get just the right amount of water and no spray means leaf diseases are kept in check
- * **Our Environment** - you're saving water and using a recycled product

1 Find the Right Site

Success with soaker hoses relies on using them correctly and an important part of that is putting them in the right spot. Soaker hoses belong in garden beds. For lawn watering, use a sprinkler. Use drip irrigation on steep slopes when you're ready for a more efficient irrigation method.

2 Start at the Faucet

First connect a timer to water just enough each time. Next, connect a backflow preventor to your faucet unless you have a newer faucet with a built-in prevention device. Backflow can cause the drinking water inside your home to become contaminated.

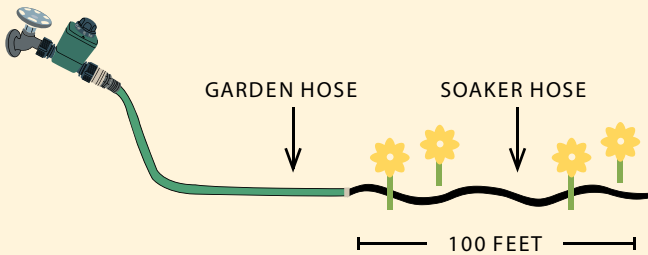


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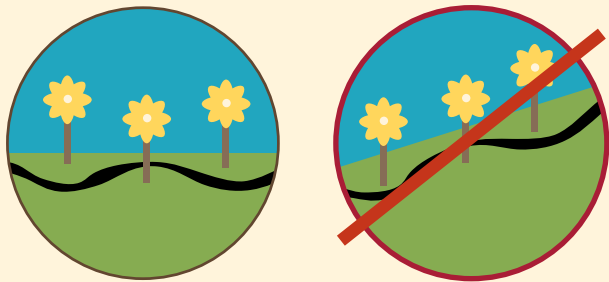
3 Too Long is Wrong

The maximum length for an effective soaker hose is 100 feet. Purchase the length that best fits your planted areas and lay your soaker hose only in these areas. Use a garden hose to connect your soaker hose to the faucet.



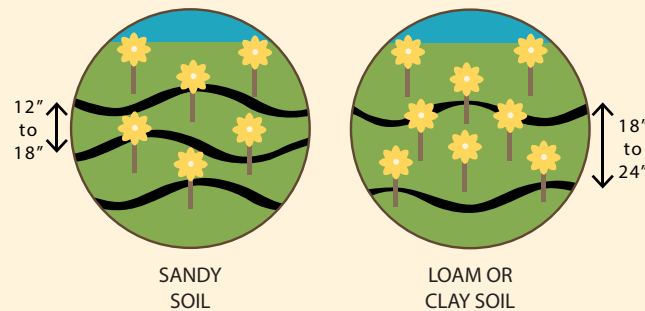
4 Keep it Level

Soaker hoses deliver water most uniformly on level ground. They don't allow water to seep effectively on slopes or in vertical positions like rockeries. If you have level beds at different heights, snake soaker hoses through the beds, then use solid hose and fittings to connect the soaker lengths together to form a continuous line no longer than 100 feet.



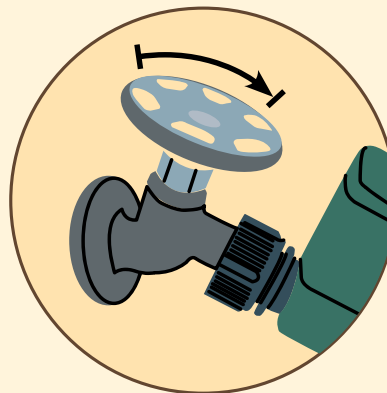
5 Use Correct Spacing

Lay lines 12-18 inches apart on sandy soil and 18-24 inches on loam or clay soil. Keep the soaker hose at least 1-2 inches from the base of established plants. But with new plants or annuals, lay the hose closer to the plant and move it away from the base as it grows.



6 Slow the Flow

If you don't have a pressure regulator, turn the faucet on just enough so the entire hose is seeping but not spraying. The amount may vary for every faucet, so try turning it on a quarter turn first and adjust up or down as necessary.



7 Perfect Your Timing

Start by running your soaker hose about 30 minutes twice a week. (Annuals and vegetables may need to be watered every other day.) After a watering day, check your soil to see if the moisture has penetrated several inches, then adjust accordingly.

When you find the magic number for your conditions, use a timer to water the same number of minutes every time. Keep in mind that too much water can cause just as many plant health problems as too little water.

More Tips for Success With Soaker Hoses

- * Keep your soaker hose kink-free. Kinks in the line block water flow, so uncoil the hose and allow it to relax before laying it in the planting bed.
- * Flush the soaker hose when you first install it and a few times during the season. Open the end cap, turn on the water and flush out any debris. Don't forget to replace the cap.
- * Cover your soaker hose with 2-3 inches of mulch to retain moisture and protect it from sun damage. Don't bury your soaker hose in the soil and be sure to locate and move it before digging in the garden.
- * When disconnecting your soaker hose, plug the open end so that soil and insects can't clog it.
- * Keep in mind that outdoor faucets are meant for temporary connections. For water quality protection, turn off and disconnect your soaker hose between uses.