

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. But 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

Success with Soaker Hoses

When used correctly, soaker hoses can save you water and simplify your garden maintenance.

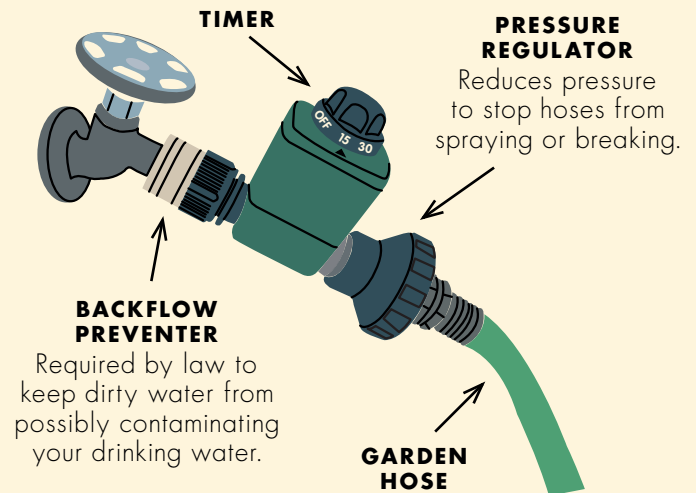
1 Find the Right Site

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,

and use drip irrigation on steep slopes or when you're ready for a more efficient irrigation method. See our drip factsheet at: <http://www.savingwater.org/docs/Dripfactsheet.pdf>.

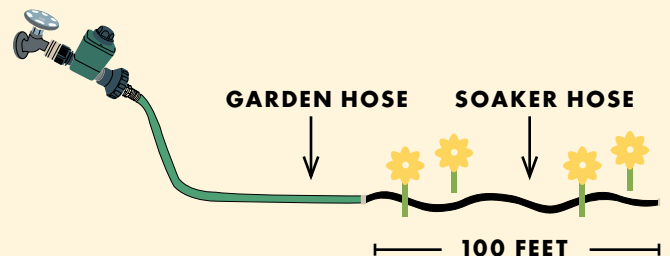
2 Start at the Faucet

Always connect a backflow preventer to your faucet first, unless you have a newer faucet with a built-in prevention device. Next, connect a timer to water just enough each time. Add a pressure regulator (10 or 12 psi) before attaching your garden hose.



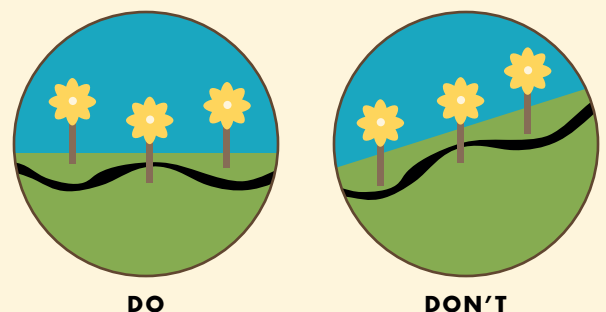
3 Too Long is Wrong

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.



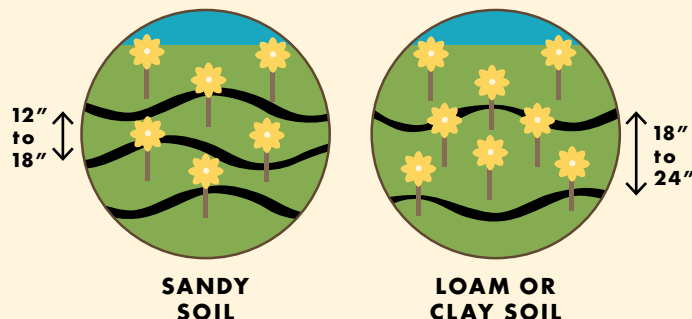
4 Keep it Level

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.



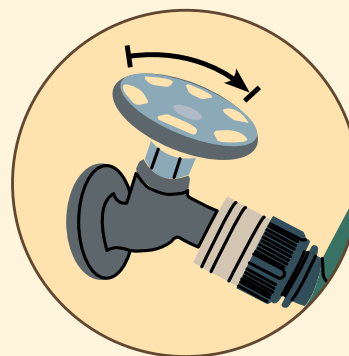
5 Use Correct Spacing

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

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. But don't bury your soaker in the soil and be sure to locate and move it before digging in the garden.
- * Keep in mind that outdoor faucets are meant for temporary connections. For water quality protection, turn your water off and disconnect your soaker hose between uses.
- * When disconnecting your soaker hose, plug the open end so that soil and insects can't clog it.
- * In the fall, disconnect your battery operated timer and pressure regulator and take them indoors when you stop watering. This will prevent damage to these parts from freezing weather.

For More Information

Learn how to save water in the garden:

Visit www.savingwater.org

Contact the **Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline** at
206.633.0224 or help@gardenhotline.org



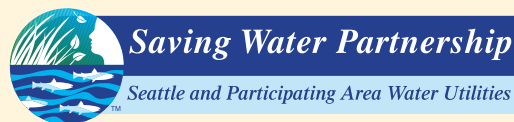
Brought to you by the Saving Water Partnership

We are a consortium of 18 local water utilities working to extend water supply from the Cedar and Tolt Rivers to meet the needs of both people and fish.

Partnership members include:

- City of Bothell
- Cedar River Water & Sewer District
- Coal Creek Utility District
- City of Duvall
- Highline Water District
- Water District 20
- Water District 45
- Water District 49
- Water District 90
- Water District 119
- Water District 125
- City of Mercer Island
- Northshore Utility District
- Olympic View Water & Sewer District
- Seattle Public Utilities
- Shoreline Water District
- Soos Creek Water & Sewer District
- Woodinville Water District

a better way to beautiful



© 2005 Seattle Public Utilities