airgarden®

The Airgarden owner's manual

#growyourown

Welcome to the Tribe

Welcome to the Airgarden Tribe - you've now joined thousands of Australians living a greener, healthier, and more delicious life.

This manual will serve as your go-to resource as you set up, grow and harvest your own homegrown food.

No matter how green your thumb has (or hasn't!) been in the past, you are going to be an all-star Airgardener in no time.

To help you along your journey, we recommend you make the most of these resources:

- Join us in our private Facebook group, where Airgardening experts around Australia share how-to's, tips, and inspiration
- Follow us on Instagram
- Subscribe to our enewsletter and SMS service, where we provide you with all the content and resources you need to get the most out of your Airgarden
- Subscribe to our YouTube page which has heaps of helpful videos

And, if ever you need us, we're always here to help.

Happy growing!

Prue and Tom - siblings, green thumbs and founders of Airgarden

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What’s in the box

AIRGARDEN COMPONENTS

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES

- 30 grow plugs
- Seedling propagation kit
- 2-part nutrient solution (1L set)
- pH testing kit
- 5 seed packets
- 30 grow cups
- 1 tote bag
- 2 measuring cups
- 1 syringe
- 1 stirring spoon

Finding the best spot for your Airgarden

SUPPORT VIDEO

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WHERE TO PUT YOUR AIRGARDEN

- A sunny spot with 4-6 hours of full direct sunlight per day
- Access to continuous power within 10 metres
- Access to an outdoor tap or water source
- 1 square metre of level space with easy access

ADDITIONAL SETUP TIPS

- Cover your plants with a pest net if required to protect from pests, possums etc
- Use an umbrella for shade when it's very hot (daily temp above 30°)
- Use a heater to keep the reservoir water temperature at 24 degrees when very cold (daily temp below 15°)
- Stock up on items included in 'Additional Supplies' e.g. natural caterpillar killer, pest killer

Assembling your Airgarden

SUPPORT VIDEO

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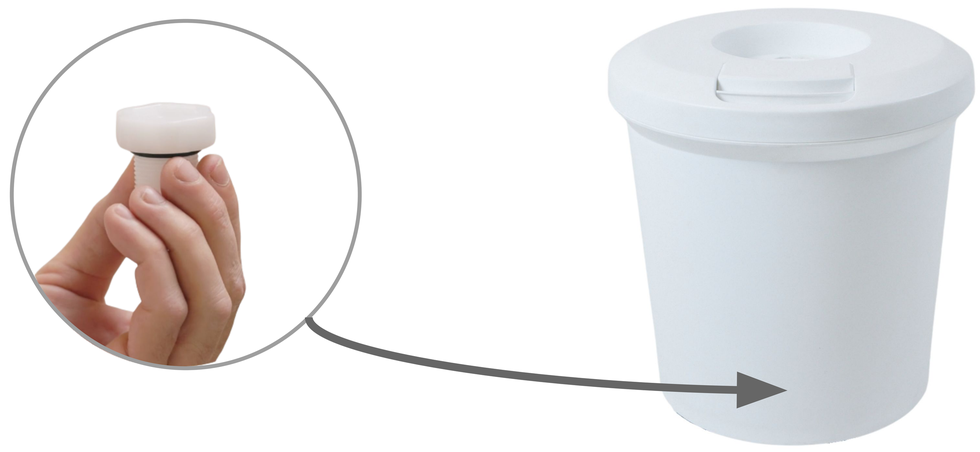
STEP 1) UNBOX YOUR AIRGARDEN AND LAY ALL PIECES ON THE FLOOR

STEP 2) INSTALL RESERVOIR BUNG

1. Take the bung insert and screw it into the corresponding hole at the bottom of the base



STEP 3) TURN BASE UPSIDE DOWN & INSTALL WHEELS

1. Take four wheels and spanner from the large clear bag included your tote bag
2. Use spanner (1) and screw in the two lockable wheels (2) on the SAME side as each other (3), turning the spanner in a CLOCKWISE direction (4)
3. Screw in the remaining two non-lockable wheels (5)
4. Ensure you screw all wheels in until HAND TIGHT

1

2

3

4

5

Assembling your Airgarden

SUPPORT VIDEO

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STEP 4) CONNECT HOSE & PLACE PUMP IN BASE RESERVOIR

1. Turn over the base reservoir and ensure both wheels are locked into place (1)

1

2. Take clear hose & 2 x hose connectors (2) from the clear bag included in your Airgarden tote bag

2

3. Fit hose connectors to each end of the clear hose (3 & 4)

3

4

4. Take ½ hose adapter (5) from clear bag and screw into top of pump (6)

5

5. Check dial on front of pump is pointing to the top left for max flow (7)

7

6. Connect clear hose to pump

7. Place pump in the centre of the base reservoir with dial facing towards the outside

8. Press firmly to secure suction feet, place cord in cord channel (8)

8

Assembling your Airgarden

SUPPORT VIDEO

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STEP 5) FEED HOSE THROUGH RESERVOIR LID & ASSEMBLE BODY SECTIONS

1. Feed clear hose through the centre hole in reservoir lid. Place reservoir lid firmly on the top of base reservoir (1)

1

2. Set aside showercap lid (2) and base (3)

2

3

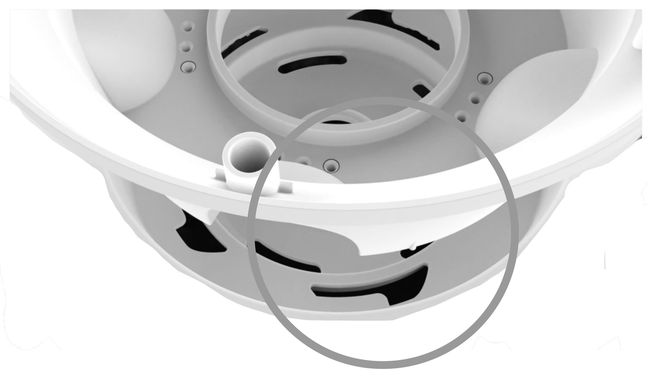
3. Take first body base section (4) and feed clear hose through centre (5)

4

5

4. Line up the notch on the side of the body base with the large opening in the centre of the reservoir lid (6)

6



5. Drop body base into position and turn clockwise to lock in (7)

7

6. Take first body top section (8) and feed clear hose through centre.

8

7. Line up all 5 pins to corresponding holes in body base section and snap down firmly into place

Assembling your Airgarden

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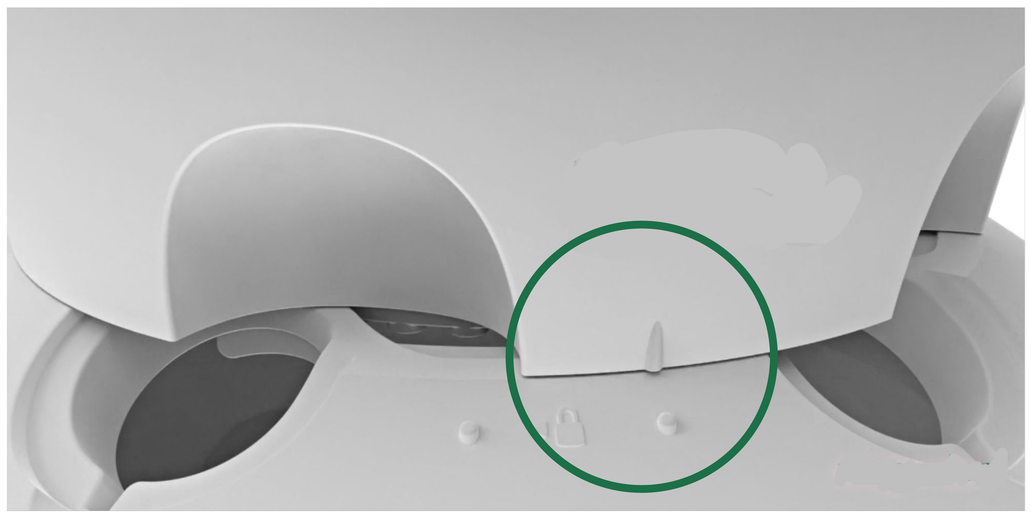
STEP 6) ASSEMBLE REMAINING BODY BASE SECTIONS

1. Take second body base, place clear hose through centre hole (as per previous step)

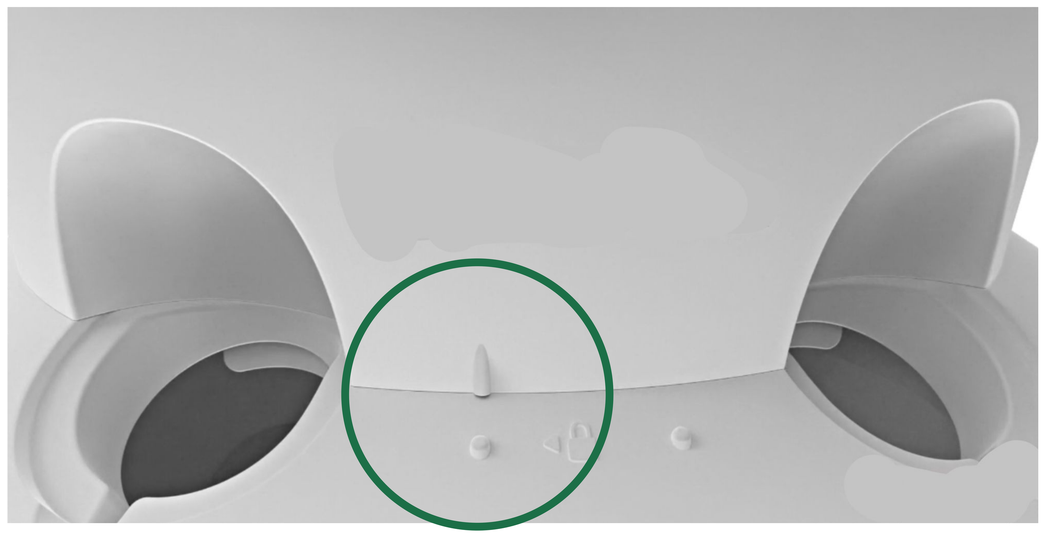
2. Line up notch on side of body base section with first dot on body top - to the right of the "lock" symbol (1)

1



3. Turn clockwise (to the left) until notch is above the second dot to lock in place (2)

2



4. Ensure with each level, you feed the clear hose through the centre of body base and body top, and rest on the edge as you go (3)

3

5. Repeat this process until all four remaining body base sections and tops have been installed

Assembling your Airgarden

SUPPORT VIDEO

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STEP 7) THREAD HOSE ADAPTER THROUGH SHOWERCAP BASE & LOCK INTO PLACE

1. Take ¾ hose adapter (1) and thread through INSIDE of showercap base. DO NOT THREAD FROM UNDERSIDE (2)

1

2

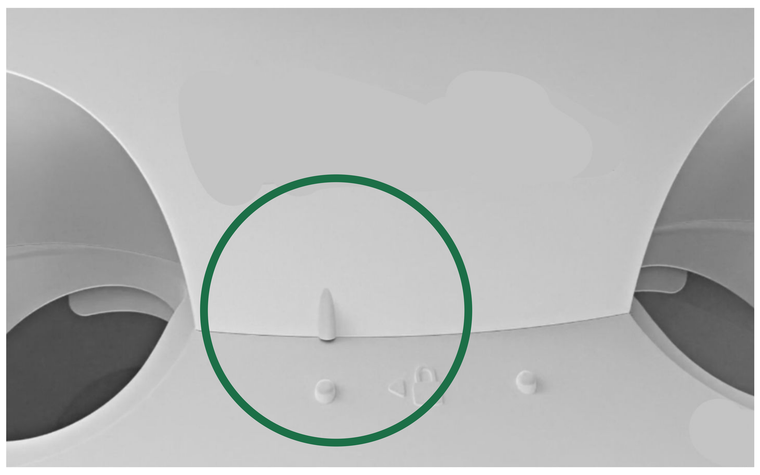
2. Connect clear hose to adapter (3)

3

3. As done previously, line up notch on side of showercap base with first dot on body top

4. Turn clockwise (to the left) until notch is above second dot to lock in place (4)

4



5. Take showercap lid and line up all 5 x pins to corresponding holes in showercap base and snap down firmly into place.

CONGRATULATIONS - you've assembled your Airgarden and are ready to grow!

Setting up your timer

SUPPORT VIDEO

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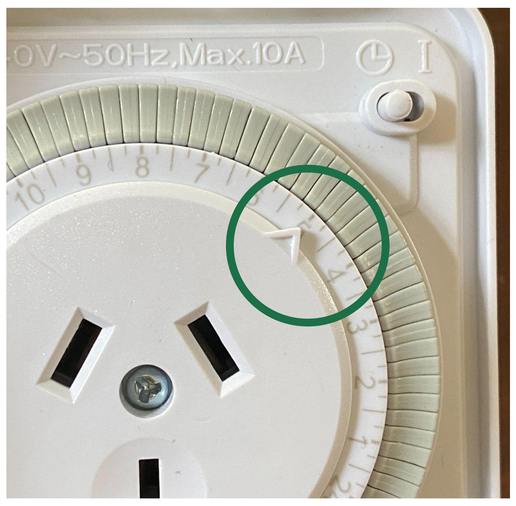
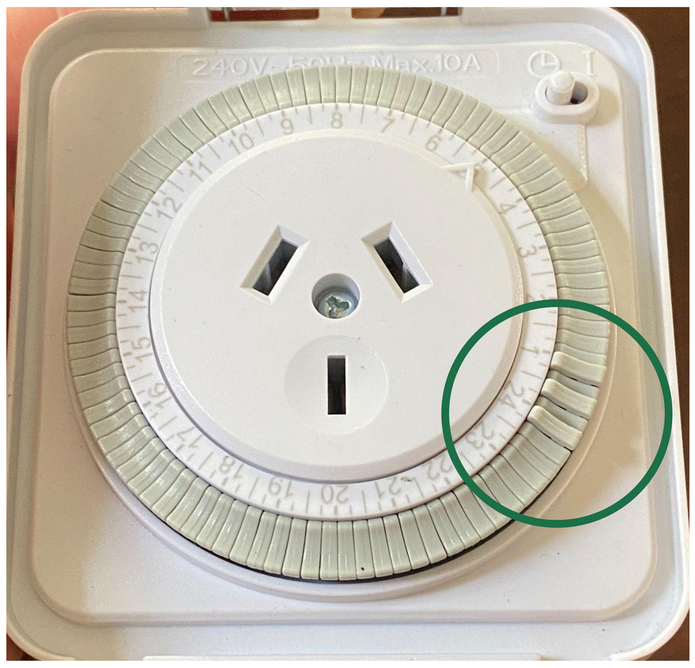
Note: Only plug in and switch on the timer once your seedlings are in your Airgarden. Your pump must be plugged in to the timer to ensure your plants are watered in appropriate intervals.

SET UP STEPS

1. Open the clear cover and turn the white dial to the time of day it is (24-hour time)

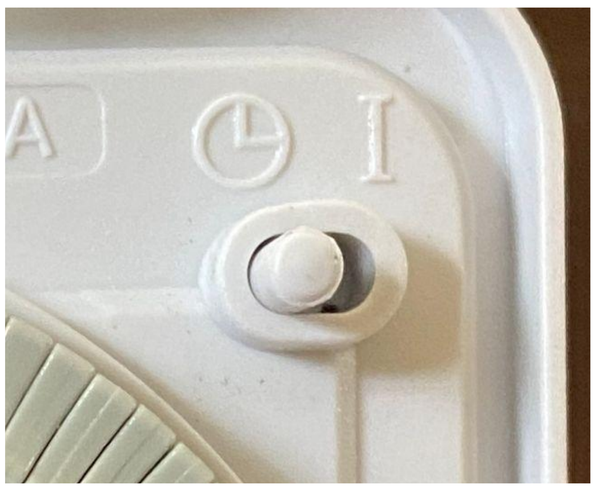


2. You will see little notches running all around the outside rim of the timer
   - Each notch represents 15 minute intervals - when notches are down the pump will run, when they are up it will not run
   - So for example, 1 notch down and 3 notches up, repeated around the circle will mean watering intervals of 15 minutes on and 45 minutes off
   - The cycle you will use is determined by the climate you live in as per the below:



Average daily temperature	On (notch down)	Off (notch up)
Hot: Above 35°c	15 mins (1 down)	15 mins (1 up)
Warm: Between 15°c - 35°c	15 mins (1 down)	30 mins (2 up)
Cold: Below 15°c	15 mins (1 down)	45 mins (3 up)

3. Use a flathead screwdriver or the tip of a pen to push up the appropriate notches based on the above
4. Switch the power button to the clock symbol - this will turn on the automated timer (the 'I' symbol will run the pump continuously)
5. Plug your pump into the timer, and plug the timer into a power source, and you are away!



Filling the base & testing pH

SUPPORT VIDEO

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The Airgarden base reservoir holds 85 litres of water when filled just below the power cord channel. Complete the following steps to fill it up for the first time only.

STEP 1) FILL WITH WATER

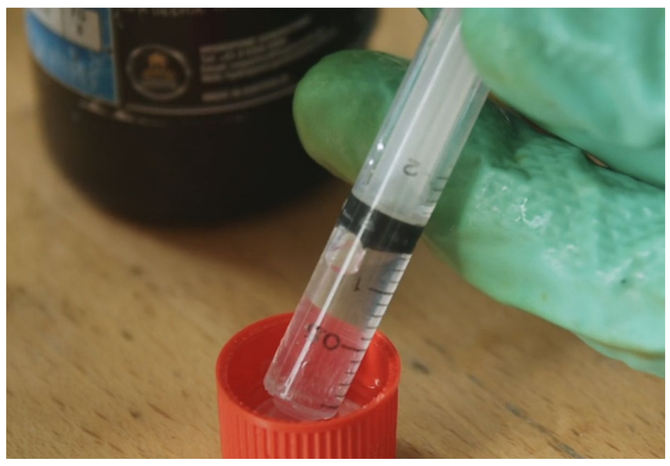
1. Open the access port at the top of the base reservoir and use a hose to fill with cold water to the 'max fill' line to the left of the access port (approx 85 litres)
    - *Note: if you're living in an apartment you can purchase an indoor tap adapter and hose*

STEP 2) ADD NUTRIENTS

2. Add 190-200ml of Part 1 solution and stir well with the spoon provide with your Airgarden
3. Wait for 1-2 minutes
4. Add 190-200ml of Part 2 solution using a separate measuring cup and stir well again
    - *Note: when maintaining your Airgarden, you'll add 2ml of each nutrient for every litre of water added*

STEP 3) AFTER 2-3 MINUTES, TEST YOUR pH LEVELS

1. Use the supplied pH Kit and take a sample of the reservoir water using the test tube (only fill half way)
2. Our target pH level is 6.0, however a range of 5.5 - 6.5 is also acceptable
3. Add 2 drops of indicator solution to the test tube and compare the colour to the indicator chart provided
4. If pH is high or low add between 1-2ml of pH Down or pH Up respectively, and re-test. Use a dropper to measure precisely
5. Repeat steps until you reach the target pH of 6.0



Growing your own seedlings

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SELECTING SEEDS

- Ensure the seeds you select are in our list of 150 Airgarden-compatible plants
- Use relatively fresh seeds, as after a year or two most seeds don't germinate as well

STEP 1) SET UP THE GROW PLUG TRAY

1. Remove the grow plug tray from inside the solid black tray with the clear lid
2. Add 1L of warm water (max 35°C) to the solid black tray
3. Place the tray with 30 x grow plugs back into the solid black tray with the warm water. The grow plugs should expand and soak up the water over 3 - 10 minutes. If the tops are still dry, add water directly to the top until dark brown and glistening.

STEP 2) SOW THE SEEDS

1. Punch a 5mm hole in the top of each grow plug using a pen or pencil
2. Place your seeds in the hole then lightly re-cover them with the coir you removed.
3. The number of seeds to use varies depending on plant type:
   - Lettuces: 2-6 seeds per plug
   - Herbs: 6 -10 seeds per plug
   - Other leafy greens (kale, rocket, spinach): 4 seeds per plug
   - Larger fruiting vegetables (cucumber, capsicum, tomatoes): 1-2 seeds per plug
   - Refer to your seed packets for guidelines for other varieties
4. Label each grow plug so you know what seedlings are what (use plastic labels and lead pencil to prevent mould)
5. Place clear lid back on top of solid seedling tray (this is important!)

Growing your own seedlings

SUPPORT VIDEO

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STEP 1) COVER & WAIT FOR SEEDS TO SPROUT INSIDE THE PROPAGATION DOME

1. Place the lid back on top of the seedling tray and DO NOT remove until seeds have sprouted
2. Seeds do not need much light to germinate, so it's best to place the tray inside in a bright place out of direct sunlight (e.g. the kitchen bench). If they're on a cool surface place a tea-towel underneath to keep the tray warm
3. Cover them with the dome and wait for them to germinate i.e. sprout above the surface. Do not add any more water during this time.

STEP 2) AS SOON AS GROW PLUGS SPROUT, TAKE THEM OUT OF THE DOME AND PUT IN SUNLIGHT FOR 4 HOURS PER DAY FOR 5 DAYS

1. Seeds will take varying times to sprout depending on the plant. As such, as soon as ANY seeds sprout transfer them to an open tupperware container and place them in direct morning sun for 4 hours per day, or 8 hours under a fluorescent or LED desk lamp
2. If any plugs start turning light brown, they are drying out. Add water to the top until they are dark brown, or pour 5mm of water into the tupperware container.
3. Once all of your seeds have sprouted, you can remove the clear lid and move them all back to the main tray.

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Growing your own seedlings

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STEP 3) AFTER THE FIRST 5 DAYS, PUT SEEDS IN SUNLIGHT FOR 6 HOURS PER DAY

1. After 5 days, place seedlings in direct sun for 6 hours per day or under a fluorescent or LED desk lamp for 12 hours per day
2. If any of the plugs start turning light brown, they are drying out. Add water to the top until they glisten, or pour 1 litre of water into the bottom of the tray. ONLY add water as required, otherwise you will over-water your plants.

STEP 4) AFTER 10 DAYS, ADD NUTRIENTS WHEN WATERING

1. After 10 days, using a measuring dropper add 1ml of Part 1 and 1ml of Part 2 Airgarden nutrient solution to 1 litre of water
2. Pour the mixture into the bottom of the tray
3. ONLY re-water plugs when they turn light brown (this will be every 2-3 days)
4. If some plugs are still moist, but others are drying out, apply water to the tops of individual plugs rather than to the entire tray

STEP 5) WAIT FOR THE ROOTS TO SPROUT (ARE VISIBLE TO THE EYE)

1. Seedlings must have roots sprouting before being transferred to your Airgarden (see image to right). This typically takes 2-3 weeks, but some are faster than others depending on the plant.

2. When any roots have sprouted (i.e. you can see them coming out of the bottom / sides of the grow plug), they are ready and you can move these seedlings into your Airgarden.

Transferring seedlings

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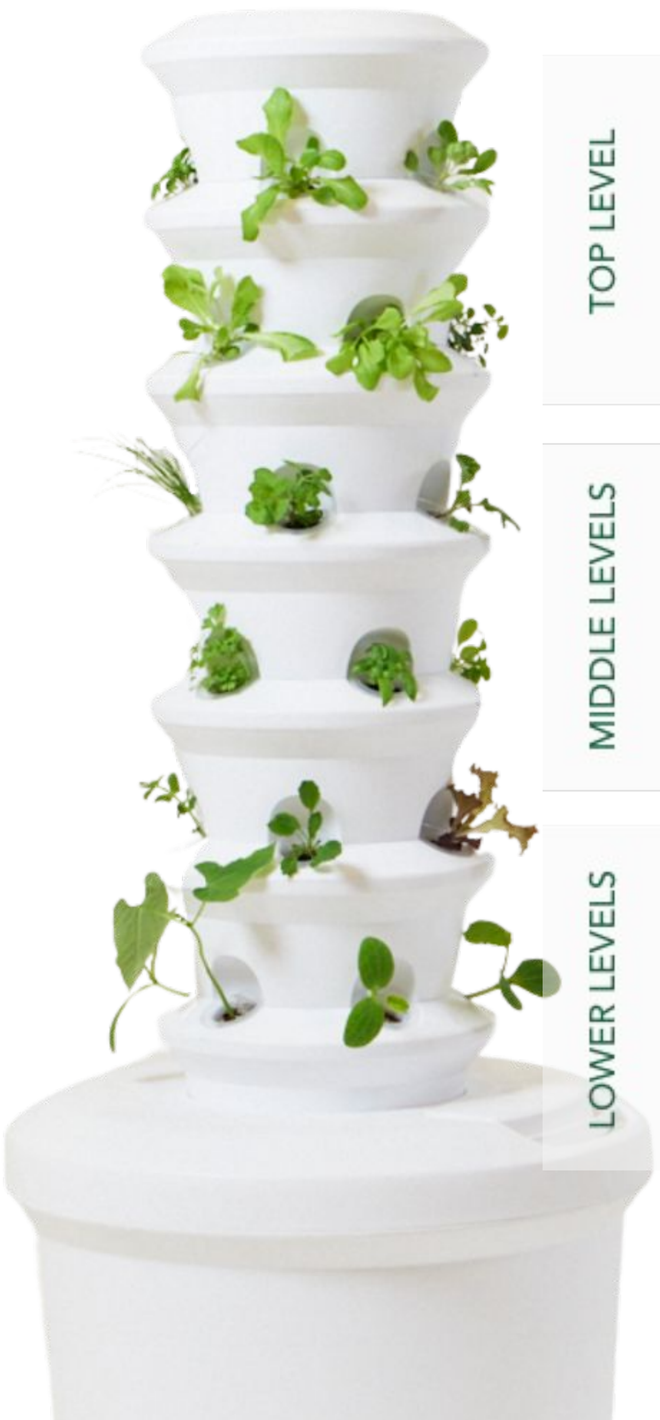
Remember, you MUST ensure the roots have grown through before you transfer seedlings to your Airgarden. Here's what to do when they're ready.

1. Take an individual seedling plug and place it into one grow cup. Do not remove the white mesh covering the seedling plug (1)
2. Ensure the bottom of the plug is touching the bottom of the cup
3. Place the grow cup into a planting site and ensure clear edges are sitting flat on the recessed edge (2)
4. To remove, use the recessed finger hole and grab the front clear edge of the grow cup to remove

1

2

WHERE TO PLANT SEEDLINGS



TOP LEVEL

Herbs and plant varieties that grow upwards, such as...

SWISS CHARD · BASIL · PARSLEY · THYME · MINT · SPRING ONION · DILL

MIDDLE LEVELS

Leafy greens and plant varieties that are medium sized and stay more compact, such as...

LETTUCES · ROCKET · KALE · SPINACH · STRAWBERRIES · WATERCRESS · JALEPENOS

LOWER LEVELS

Vining plants that are larger and take longer to mature, such as...

BROCCOLI · CAPSICUM · TOMATO · CUCUMBER · BEANS · ZUCCHINI · CAULIFLOWER

Must-do weekly checks

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1) CHECK WATER LEVELS

When you have new seedlings or during autumn/winter, check your water level ONCE PER WEEK. During summer or when fruiting plants are large (e.g. tomatoes, beans, cucumbers), check your water TWICE PER WEEK.

2) ADD FRESH WATER TO RESERVOIR

ONLY add fresh water when the water level drops to halfway down. Fill it back up to the 'max fill' line to the left of the access port – this will be around 40 litres. You must test and balance the pH to 6.0 every time you add water, but only add nutrients every second time.

3) ADD NUTRIENTS EVERY SECOND TIME YOU ADD WATER

Only add nutrients every second time you refill your reservoir. Add 2mls of part 1 and part 2 nutrients for every litre of water added. So for 40 litres added (half the reservoir) add 80mls of part 1 and 80 mls of part 2. You MUST stir and wait 2-3 minutes between adding each part.

4) CHECK & BALANCE YOUR PH LEVELS EVERY TIME YOU ADD WATER

Use the pH tester kit provided to test and balance, aiming for pH of 6.0. 5.5 to 6.5 is acceptable.

5) CHECK FOR PESTS & MONITOR LEAF HEALTH

Leaves are the leading indicator as to the health of your plants, so check them regularly. And while the Airgarden prevents many pests, they can still occur. Check out our website for solutions.

6) CHECK ROOTS AND TRIM ANY EXCESS

Trim up to two thirds of any roots that have grown into the base reservoir or are obstructing any other plants within the Airgarden.

7) HARVEST & PRUNE YOUR PLANTS REGULARLY

Harvesting and pruning is super important. Check out our website for how and when to do it.

8) EMPTY & REFILL YOUR BASE RESERVOIR EVERY 6 - 8 WEEKS

It's important to re-fill your reservoir with fresh water and nutrients, and clean out any roots / debris that have fallen into it, at least every 8 weeks.

Cleaning your Airgarden

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You should clean your Airgarden at the start of each new season and, if you're really diligent, between fresh plantings. So here are the three simple steps for cleaning your Airgarden.

STEP 1) EMPTY THE RESERVOIR

- Unscrew the bung in the reservoir and allow water to drain. You can direct the water onto the lawn, a garden bed or potted plants
- Hose out any remaining debris
- Screw the bung back into the reservoir

STEP 2) DISASSEMBLE YOUR AIRGARDEN

- Remove your plants with the grow cups
- Remove the showercap lid, by placing a flat head screw driver in the small notch on the side and push up until opened
- Turn showercap base section anticlockwise, lift and disconnect clear hose
- Repeat the same process with flat head screwdriver to remove the body top sections from the body bases
- Turn body base sections anti clockwise (to the right) and remove
- Unplug the hose from the pump and remove from the base reservoir
- Take apart all the sections of the pump so you can clean it thoroughly

STEP 3) WASH & CLEAN

- Fill your reservoir with warm water + 4 capfuls of vinegar + a few squirts of dishwashing liquid
- Place all of the Airgarden parts in the water to soak for 20 - 30 mins
- Scrub everything, and clear the irrigation distributor holes with a toothbrush
- Follow the same process as above to clean the pump and net pots

Additional supplies

BLOG POST

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These are some handy accessories that our community of growers like to use.

PEST NET - AVAILABLE ON THE AIRGARDEN WEBSITE

An anti pest net is ideal for protecting your Airgarden plants from insects, birds, possums or other pests. It is also helpful in protection from extreme weather conditions like wind and hail.

BASE RESERVOIR WATER HEATER - AVAILABLE AT PET BARN

If you're in a cold climate where the daily temperature is below 15° celsius, installing a simple, inexpensive heater in the base will keep your plants warm and thriving throughout winter (optimal temp: 24°).

ECO FUNGICIDE - AVAILABLE AT BUNNINGS

For any issues with the health of your leaves, Eco-fungicide is a registered organic fungicide that rapidly kills external fungal growth and spores, but is completely safe to use on edibles.

YATES CATERPILLAR KILLER - AVAILABLE AT BUNNINGS

If you notice yellow butterflies flying around your plants, they're a sign of nasty caterpillars. Yates Caterpillar Killer is a certified organic product that effectively controls caterpillars. 100% organic also means there is no withholding period (edibles can be eaten straight away) and it is safe for non-target insects.

ECO ORGANIC OIL - AVAILABLE AT BUNNINGS

An organic insecticide that kills sap-sucking insects like aphids, mites, scale, whitefly, mealybugs, and citrus leafminer. It also attracts beneficial predatory insects to your Airgarden, is made from 100% botanical oils so is safe for use on edibles with no withholding period.