



## Instruction Manual



Constructing a Polytunnel

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## Introduction

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Thank you for your purchase. At the Polytunnel People, we take great pride in being able to offer great quality products at great quality prices. We hope that you will be pleased with your product.

## Using this Manual

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The purpose of this manual is to provide instruction on assembling your new polytunnel. The following icons can identify important information.

Icon	Message	Indication
	Caution	You may damage equipment if you do not follow this step correctly.
	Note	Helpful hints and tips.

## Help and Information

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If you require additional help or further information, then please visit our website [www.thepolytunnelpeople.com](http://www.thepolytunnelpeople.com). Alternatively, you can call our customer support line on +44 0203 123 1234 (please note this is a UK landline and charges may apply. Opening hours are 9 am to 5 pm GMT).



***Assembling a polytunnel can be a complicated task. It is recommended to watch our video tutorial before you begin. Use the QR code on the left to access our video from your smartphone. Alternatively, you can find links to the tutorials on our website.***

## Before you Begin

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We advise that you take time to read these instructions before starting assembly.



***Polythene sheeting needs to be warm when stretched. Store the polythene in a warm room before use. If the weather is cool, use a heater inside the tunnel.***

### Advisories

- Wear gloves to protect your hands from sharp edges
- Take care when using machinery and tools
- Use ladders on level ground
- Always keep your work area tidy

## Tools and Equipment

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Ensure you have all the required tools and equipment before starting construction.

### Included

- ❖ 10 ground tubes
- ❖ 4 1.47m (147cm) ridge bars
- ❖ 3 1.65m (165cm) crop bars
- ❖ A pack of large nuts
- ❖ A pack of small nuts
- ❖ 10 half-hoops
- ❖ Anti-hot spot tape
- ❖ Repair tape
- ❖ Polythene sheeting

### You will need

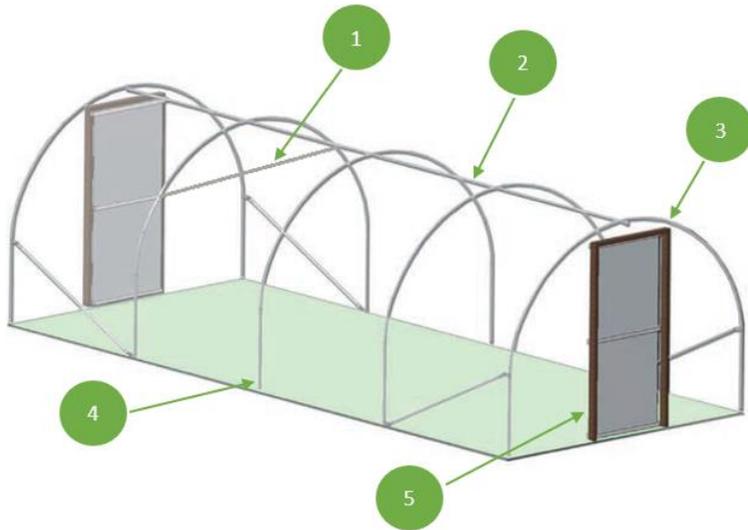
- ❖ A spade / Post hole digger
- ❖ String
- ❖ Timber block
- ❖ Hammer
- ❖ Screwdriver
- ❖ Drill
- ❖ Stepladder
- ❖ Measuring tape



***It may be useful to have someone assist you with construction.***

# Polytunnel Diagram

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1. Crop bar
2. Ridge bar
3. Hoops
4. Ground tubes
5. Doorframe

# Frame Assembly

## Step 1 – Mark the polytunnel outline

Using a tape measure and string, mark the outline of your polytunnel, 5.8m (580 cm) wide by 15m (1500 cm) long. See figure 1.1.

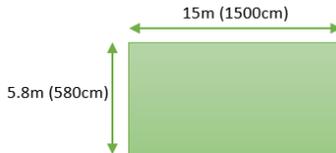


FIGURE 1.1 - POLYTUNNEL OUTLINE

## Step 2 – Place the ground tubes

Using a hammer, place ground tubes at 1.5m (150 cm) intervals.



***To prevent the ground tube from being deformed, use a piece of timber as a cushion.***

## Step 3 – Joining the half-hoops

Join two half-hoops with a cross on the ground. Check the crosses and tubes slide freely into hoops. See figure 1.2.



FIGURE 1.2 - JOINING TWO HALF-HOOPS



***Sometimes the welded ridge inside the hoop may need to be filed slightly.***

## Step 4 – Mounting the hoops

Mount the hoops into the ground tubes.

## Step 5 – Place the ridge bars

Place the ridge bars between the crosses.



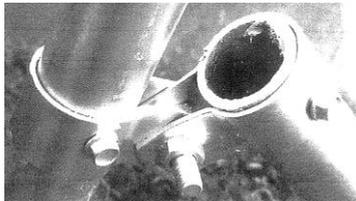
***If the hoops and ridges are not pushed completely onto the crosses, it may cause the polythene to loosen.***

### Step 6 – Joining the crop bar to the first hoop

Using the clips provided, connect the crop bar to the first hoop. Use the large nut as a spacer to prevent over tightening. See figure 1.3.



***The small nut must be on the inside of the tunnel so that the end of the bolt does not poke out into the polythene.***



**FIGURE 1.3 – JOINING THE DIAGONAL CROP BAR TO THE FIRST HOOP**

### Step 7 – Connecting the clips

Drill a self-tapping screw into each clip. See figure 1.4



***To prevent the screw heads damaging the polythene, drill the self-tapping screws to the inside of the tunnel.***



**FIGURE 1.4 - CONNECTING THE CROP BAR TO THE SECOND HOOP**

You are now ready to trench and sheet your polytunnel.

# Trenching

## Step 1 – Plan the trench

Create a rough outline of your trench. Measure approximately 6" (15 cm) away from the side of the polytunnel frame. See figure 1.6.

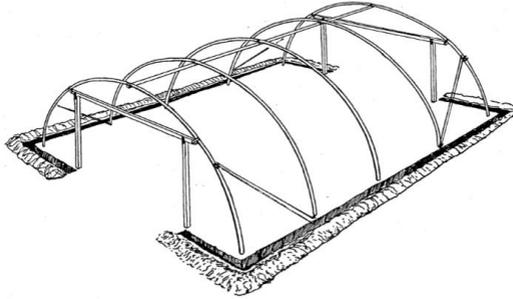


FIGURE 1.5 – POLYTUNNEL TRENCH

## Step 2 - Dig the trench

Using a spade, dig a trench approximately 12" (30 cm) wide by 12" (30 cm) deep. See figure 1.6.



***You can use a machine to dig the trench but be careful that you do not pull the corners away by accident.***

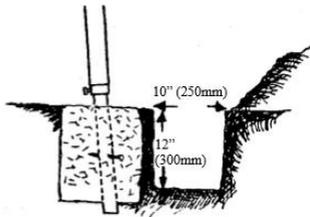


FIGURE 1.6 – TRENCH WIDTH AND DEPTH



***Make sure to dig along each side of the polytunnel frame and around the corners of the first door post.***

## Protective Tapes and Pads

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You can protect your polytunnel sheeting from sharp edges by covering all fittings and protrusions with polythene wads and tape.

It is also recommended to apply anti-hot spot tape to maximise the life of your polytunnel.

### Anti-hot spot tape

During the summer, the polytunnel frame is subject to excessive heat build-up; Anti-hot spot tape acts as a barrier between the polytunnel frame and the polythene sheeting.

### Step 1 – Identifying application areas

Use anti-hot spot tape on the outer curve of the polytunnel frame, where the steel hoops make contact with the polythene. See figure 1.7.

### Step 2 – Applying anti-hot spot tape

Cover the top and front curves of the steel end hoops with tape. Use two narrow strips of tape or one wide strip of tape.

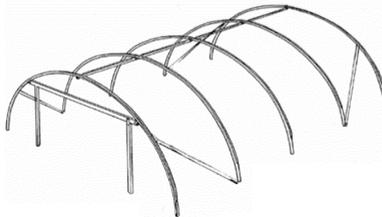


FIGURE 1.7 – CONSTRUCTED POLYTUNNEL FRAME

### Anti-hot spot repair tape

Anti-hot spot tape degrades over time, instead of removing and replacing this, simply apply a layer of anti-hot spot repair tape.



***Anti-hot spot tape gives off a chemical vapour when it degrades which is harmful to the polythene.***

## Sheeting the Polytunnel

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You should fit the polythene sheeting in windless conditions. If the weather is not warm and sunny, you will need to heat the tunnel before tightening the polythene.



***The polythene needs to be warm when stretched. If you do not do this, then the polythene will loosen in warm weather.***

### Step 1 – Unfold the Polythene

Pull the polythene over the tunnel as seen in figure 1.8. The polythene is the right way up if the writing on it can be read from the inside.

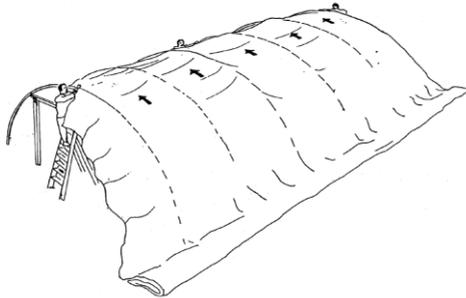


FIGURE 1.8 – SHEETING THE POLYTUNNEL

### Step 2 – Fitting the polythene

Tighten the polythene from the top of the doorframe to the bottom of the doorframe. See figure 1.9.



FIGURE 1.9 – FITTING THE POLYTHENE

### Step 3 – Trench the Polythene

Fill the trench with soil, lift approximately 8" (20cm) and force down with your foot. Leave the hoops at the gable ends free of soil.

### Step 4 – Tighten the Polythene at the central hoops

Start at the middle hoop and work towards the ends. Ripples will reappear between the first and second hoops when you tighten the polythene at the second hoop.

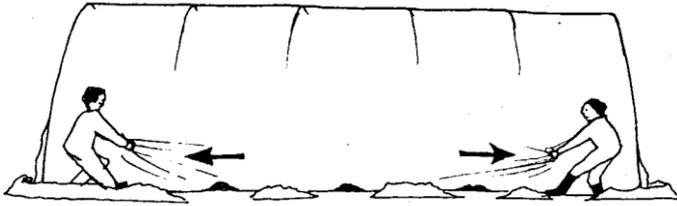


FIGURE 1.10 – TIGHTENING THE POLYTHENE



*Please note that some ripples will remain.*

### Step 5 – Fill gable ends

Fill the gable ends with soil and re-tighten polythene between the first and second hoops. Apply pressure to the soil placed at gable ends.



***If the polythene sheeting is not tightened correctly, it will become loose in the wind and may be damaged.***

