



## Application

**1** - Remove the end cap from the soaker hose, hook the hose up to the water faucet and run the water for a few minutes to flush out any debris. Disconnect the hose from the faucet and replace the end cap when finished. Always flush new hoses and repeat once or twice annually to remove built up debris.

**2** - Stretch the hose straight when laying a soaker hose for crops and flowers planted in a straight line. Weave the hose in and out among plants when plants are not planted in straight lines.

**3** - Keep the hose positioned about 2 inches from plant stems; closer spacing is acceptable for new planting or for annuals, which tend to have shallower roots than perennial plants.

**4** - Space rows of soaker hoses 12 to 18 inches apart when used on sandy soil or 18 to 24 inches apart for loam or clay soil. Use 12- to 18-inch spacing for small annuals regardless of soil type to ensure the shallow roots receive sufficient water. The total length of soaker hose connected to a single water source should not exceed 100 feet; connect to a different water source if more than 100 feet of hose is required to sufficiently water the plants.

**5** - Connect the soaker hose to the water source. If the hose is near an outdoor faucet, you can connect the soaker hose directly to the faucet, otherwise, you must connect the faucet and soaker hose with a regular garden hose.

**6** - Turn on the water and adjust the pressure until the water drips slowly, but steadily from the soaker hose. Swan Blue pressure reducer discs in all soaker hoses, maintain water pressure of 20 to 25 pounds per square inch.

**7** - Leave the water running for about 40 minutes, then dig a spot in the garden with a garden trowel to determine the depth of soaking. The water should cover about half of the plants' root zones. The amount of time and water depends on the size of the root zone and the type of plant. Adjust the time as necessary to achieve the required depth for your plant bed.

**8** - Water the garden at least once a week for the amount of time determined in your test run. Alternatively, you can water the plants twice weekly for half the amount of time. During warmer periods of the year this can be increased.

**9** - Cover the soaker hoses with about 2 inches of mulch, if desired, to camouflage the hoses, retain moisture and prevent soaker hose deterioration as a result of prolonged sun exposure. Leave the ends of the hose exposed above ground so you can connect to the water source when needed. As a more temporary watering solution, you can use metal stakes to pin the soaker hose in place.

## Tips

- Water source should be at the highest point of the system, as water will not flow correctly up an incline



- Soakers weep at a rate of 1 minute per foot. A 50 ft., hose would take a full 50 minutes to fill, pressurize and weep consistently. After fill you should get 1 gallon of water per foot.
- We do not suggest using more than 150 ft. from any one water source.
- The blue restrictor disc that comes in the female end of the hose is only needed at the water spigot, any hoses after that remove this disc. The Disc will take your house pressure down to about 20-25 PSI.
- You do not need a lot of water pressure as this will hinder the flow, turn your spigot off and only turn on about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a turn. The higher pressure creates a hydraulic dam effect at the blue disc actually causing the flow to reduce.
- Newer faucets come equipped with backflow prevention devices, but if you have an older faucet, you must connect a backflow preventer to prevent dirty water from flowing back into the drinking water supply. You can also connect a timer to turn off the faucet after watering for the designated amount of time.

### **Things You May Need**

- Soaker hose
- Garden hose
- Pressure regulator – older faucets only
- Garden trowel
- Mulch
- Metal garden stakes