

1. Are shelves included?

Shelving is optional. People have different ideas when setting up their greenhouses, so shelving is not necessary for all clients. See our products and price lists for the options available.

2. Is any irrigation included?

We offer a Misting Kit, which can be purchased to increase humidity and assist with climate control. This is not used for irrigation. Clients also have different requirements with regards irrigation. It is best to consult your local irrigation supplier with your specific needs.

3. Do you supply fans or air vents?

All units include roof vents and one side louver per unit or extension unit. Additional ventilation can be provided by a unique solar powered extractor fan, which can be fitted to your greenhouse. See accessories and pricing on our website.

Domestic fans can be used inside – small extractor fans from your local builder supplier can be fixed into panels. As the greenhouse provides a closed environment, the possibilities are endless to customise your greenhouse for your specific needs.

4. What kind of foundation do I need?

Our greenhouses include a base frame that the rest of the structure is fixed to as per the step by step instructions for assembly.

The base frame can be buried directly into the earth, which is the easiest and most cost effective way to assemble. Your preparation in this case is to have a solid area that has been levelled and cleared for the size of the greenhouse. The earth can be filled into the Base, as it is a hollow area. This ensures that the greenhouse is fixed into the ground and will not move. The greenhouse must be installed correctly for the 5 year warranty to be valid.

You may choose to build your own foundation. This is particularly useful if you wish to have more volume inside the greenhouse, or have to build up to get level ground, or if you have drainage concerns. The greenhouse must then be bolted or fixed to the built foundation. The base frame provided is still used, but it must be fixed into place on the Foundation you have provided.

The floor can be filled with the soil, bricks, pavers or gravel etc, whatever you personally prefer. A good idea is to use "WEED-GUARD" under any floor choice. Concrete is not recommended as it retains the heat / cold and may make climate control a little more challenging.

6. Can I automate the window vents

Yes, we supply Automatic Window Openers. Each manual vent can be replaced with an automatic opener. This is an opening "arm" consisting of a piston filled with oil that activates when the temperature changes. As heat builds up above the desired temperature, the arm activates, opening the window. As the temperature cools, the window closes. There are no batteries or motors to fail and no electricity required. Clear instructions come with the unit. It is adjustable between 15 and 25 degrees C. Do not heat the greenhouse to more than 50 degrees C.

Please note that the louver vents cannot be automated.

7. Do I require shadenet?

Due to high temperatures in Southern Africa, it is recommended to position the greenhouse where it will get some shade from the sun during the hottest parts of the day in summer, generally between 11am and 3pm depending on where you are in SA. If you don't have any natural shade, you will probably need some shadenetting at some stages of the year. We do not provide any shadenets, however you can find shadenetting at hardware stores / builder outlets, or garden centres. The net is usually 3m wide, which will be sufficient to cover the roof of your greenhouse. Tie the shadenet down on the sides (remember to have the roof vents open at this stage). The net can also be cut to fit over the roof vent and glued to the vent itself.

8. Are the Polycarbonate panels hail proof?

The polycarbonate panels ARE hail-proof so your crops are safe. You may experience some damage to the structure but even with the largest hail we experienced (golf ball size), the hail has not penetrated the polycarbonate. It is much like a car, which may get damaged but the hail does not go through it. If you should experience some damage, we can assist with replacement parts.

9. What is polycarbonate?

Polycarbonates are a particular group of thermoplastics with an incredibly high resistance to impact. As such, these plastics are very widely used in modern manufacturing (a major component of bullet-proof glass) and in roofing for shopping centres etc. It's ability to handle high temperatures sees it used in microwave cookware. It is reported to be 50 times stronger than acrylic.

The polycarbonate walls used for the greenhouses are twin walled – 4mm thick or 6mm thick.



Polycarbonate panels profile view

10. How long does Polycarbonate last?

The life expectancy can be as much as 30 years, depending on environmental factors like air pollution, winds, and erosion by sand particles.

11. What should I use to clean my panels?

Warm water with a mild household detergent should be sufficient to clean polycarbonate panels. Wipe off any remaining dirt with a soft cloth and rinse again with clean water. NEVER use a solvent based cleaner (ammonia, etc.). AVOID using sponges or brushes that can scratch the panels' surface.

12. Do the polycarbonate panels block UV radiation?

Rigid opaque polycarbonate sheets which are used for all our products, block practically 100% of the UV radiation, making them a perfect barrier against this harmful radiation.

13. If polycarbonate sheets block UV radiation, why is there a 'UV side' to face outwards?

Polycarbonate blocks UV radiation by absorbing it. This absorption mechanism might degrade the material, and the sheet has to be protected against it. Protection to the sheet is achieved by coating it with a special material that converts the UV radiation into heat that emits to the external air layer. In order to protect the sheets, they must be installed with the marked UV protective layer facing outside.

14. What makes a polycarbonate greenhouse better than glass?

Polycarbonate panels are virtually unbreakable. A big advantage is their longevity and also their safety factor, especially important when younger children or the elderly are involved.

The light weight of the panels – less than 1kg – is another advantage which makes assembly easy and convenient and even re-location an option.

In addition, the Polycarbonate panels protect everything inside the greenhouse, from the harmful UV rays, to shelving, pots, tools or your skin.

15. Can polycarbonate catch fire?

Yes. In principle all plastic materials are flammable, and will catch fire in presence of exterior flame. Be aware that compost can combust and cause fire, so be aware of items left near your greenhouse.

The ignition temperature of polycarbonate sheets is 490°C (915°F), and it is self

extinguishing, and fire will die when the exterior flame source is removed.

16. Is there a guarantee?

Our guarantee is valid for 5 years from the date of purchase, with certain conditions and limitations. A copy of the Full Guarantee can be provided on request.

The product is not recommended (or covered by warranty) for climates in which the temperature exceeds 50 degrees Celsius (or 122 degrees Fahrenheit).

The guarantee is not valid if the greenhouse is not installed correctly as per the instructions provided.

17. Quicklinks: These are some local services which I have come across and may be helpful to some clients in South Africa.

[*www.soughtafterseedlings.co.za](http://www.soughtafterseedlings.co.za)

for organic vegetable and herb seeds, as well as Vegetable Gardening Courses