

## Root Barrier installation instructions

The following instructions give general guidance on installing FlexiRoot barriers provided by PBA Solutions.

### General

- Check the condition of the barrier for any damage that could have been caused during transit to the site. Do not continue installation and notify PBA immediately if any damage is found.
- Check the installation location for sharp objects, including stones and any object likely to puncture the barrier. Material placed close to a flexible root barrier must be free from any such object that could puncture the root barrier. Remove all such objects and/or provide additional protection.
- Additional protection: where there is concern over possible punctures, then a suitable protective geo-membrane should be used for vertical applications to both sides of the barrier. Similarly, if the root barrier is to be used for horizontal applications, a protective geo-membrane or sand layer of at least 50mm on either side of the barrier can be spread to provide such protection.
- Large root barrier sections must be secured, particularly if backfilling cannot be completed straight away. Do not pierce the root barrier; instead, weigh it down with objects that will not puncture the root barrier.
- Where jointing is required, PBA recommend either heat welding overlapped joints. Trained and experienced operatives must complete heat welding. Alternatively, the root barrier can be tape jointed (on-site if necessary) with a 200mm overlap. PBA provide a specialist root barrier tape for this purpose.
- When jointing around services, we recommend using bespoke (top hat). Please enquire with PBA Solutions for more details.
- Please seek further advice from PBA solutions should you wish to attach root barriers to buildings and structures.
- For a vertical installation for tree roots, install the barrier in the trench on the tree side of the trench.
- To protect utility services, install root barrier to both faces of the trench. The softer trench backfill may be exploited by roots.
- For protection to services where roots may seek out moisture due to condensation around a service pipe, the root barrier should be used on all three faces of the excavation as a single entity.
- For situations involving Japanese knotweed, please obtain specialist advice from PBA. It is essential that root barriers extend sufficiently past the knotweed root zone so that any subsequent root growth will exhaust itself before finding the end of the barrier. Further advice must be sought from PBA when using root barrier to avoid failure of the system.
- For all vertical barriers, it is essential that the top of the barrier finishes at least 100mm above ground for future trimming. If this is not possible, please contact PBA for further advice. Only

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after settlement of backfill or appropriate compaction should a barrier be trimmed so that it is flush with surface materials. The barrier must end above the finished surface level, where such surface material can support root growth, such as soil, sand, mulch, and gravel. If the surface material is tarmac, paving, concrete or similar, the barrier must become an integral part of the surface detail.

- Roots can potentially grow around, under and over a root barrier. Root barriers will only block roots at the face of the barrier. Correct design and installation are therefore critical. PBA solutions should be contacted for advice if you are unsure about any design aspects.

### The **Do's** of root barrier installation

- **Do** follow these installation guidelines.
- **Do** use a protective membrane or sand layer with concern about protection against sharp objects.
- **Do** follow the recommendations given above and ensure that you have chosen the correct barrier for the intended application.
- **Do** allow for slack in the root barrier as backfilling and settlement will cause the barrier to sink slightly.
- **Do** ensure that the root barrier is finished and trimmed to be at or slightly above ground level as described above, or that it becomes an integral part of the surface detail.
- **Do** ensure that your proposed installation method complies with these recommendations and if in doubt, contact PBA for further advice.
- **Do** ensure that you over-sail (extend) the root barrier past roots when using to protect against invasive species. If inexperienced, please get advice.
- **Do** ensure that the barrier is installed on the tree side of a trench when installing vertically. Since roots may exploit the softer trench backfill.
- **Do** ensure that all joints in a root barrier are completed correctly and comply with this document and the manufacturer's installation guidelines.

### And the **Don'ts**

- **Don't** pierce the barrier.
- **Don't** lay the barrier on or against sharp objects.
- **Don't** allow others to cut holes in the barrier for services runs and service entry.
- **Don't** underestimate the amount of root barrier required. The root barrier needs some slack. Joints, settlement and backfilling require that surplus material is factored into the quantity of barrier to be installed.

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