

# EasySoak

## Instructions Guide

### EasySoak, Simple and Effective

A flow restrictor controls pressurized EasySoak systems by limiting the pressure and maximum amount of water. (Gravity systems don't need that but do need a reservoir water level at least 7' above the beds.) And it is Easy—just connect the system to a conventional garden hose, lay out the Drip Tape, and turn on the water supply!

#### Setup Instructions:

**1.** Make sure the pressure is low—between 2-5 psi. Our basic EasySoak kits include flow restrictors that keep the pressure in this range but incoming pressure from a garden hose or faucet should not be much higher than 50 psi (regular city water pressure is typically in this range). No need to use flow restrictor if water pressure is lower than 10 psi. For most plants, ideal pressure is 3 psi.



**2.** Spread out the white drip tape to cover your garden. Rows should be about 10" apart for even water distribution but closer if lots of sand, perlite, and drainage; further apart if lots of peat or cocoa. Keep the soaker hose as level as possible (best if no more than a 1% grade). If not completely level, start the water supply at the highest point. If on a hill, you can run a mainline down and have more flat laterals running perpendicular like a terrace.

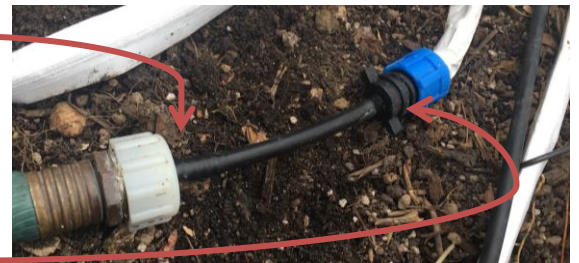
**3.** Bury or cover the EasySoak with a mulch or soil to extend EasySoak life and conserve water. (But make sure to keep flat.)

**4.** Make sure the color part of the Flow Restrictor is facing the water source (toward the hose bib). Screw on Hose Adapter (with flow restrictor ring inside) to either a garden hose, directly to a hose bib tap, or to a water supply line.



**5.** Connect the BluSoak Hose Adapter to the 8mm black line (should come already assembled if you bought a kit).

**6.** Next is connecting the actual water source to your white drip tape. Connect the opposite side of the 8mm line—where there is no fitting attached yet—to the blue 8 mm barbed x BluSoak fitting (and again already connected in kits). Then connect the blue quick-lock fitting to the white BluSoak drip tape by putting the black half round 1/8" into the middle of the blue fitting, the BluSoak around the center piece, and turning the blue part counter-clockwise to lock it in place.



**7.** Finally end your EasySoak line with the provided BluSoak plug, use the same method as before by first inserting the black plastic 1/8<sup>th</sup>", and then locking the rest of the drip tape into the fitting by tightening the blue ring.



**Done!** Turn on your water supply and you're good to go! Because the flow rates are so low, you can keep the water supply on 24 hours a day. This eliminates the cost and dependence on timers, electricity, batteries and your memory!

# Tips and Tricks for EasySoak

## Flow Restrictors

While EasySoak is hard to clog, flow restrictors are fine with city water but can plug up if lots of sediment in the water. You can run nutrients through the EasySoak without problem but we don't recommend it with the flow restrictors. If they do get clogged with sediment, it's normally easy to just take them out and blow backwards to clean. If clogged with algae or slime, best to clean with bleach or peroxide. Because the water flow is so low, it can take quite a long time for the EasySoak to fill and start working. You can speed this process along by taking the flow restrictor out and carefully filling up the line without it. Be careful though, if the pressure gets above 10 psi, the EasySoak can split (and don't forget to put back in!). Flow controllers (in systems not using Blumats which do the same thing) keep the flow and pressure in the best range. Available in 0.5, 1.0, 2.0 GPH or 0.15, 0.35, 0.5 GPH, we match them to the length of EasySoak used. The recommended range is one pint per foot per 24 hours and this is how our kits are designed. They are easy to change and remove from the Hose Adapter. To save water, you can use a smaller flow controller when the plants are small and switch to a larger flow when the plants are bigger and/or when the weather is hotter.



## If using with Blumat Sensors (BluSoak System)

If using EasySoak with a Blumat carrot, best to adjust only to the hanging drop and not turn further down. And if using a moisture meter, instead of adjusting to between 120 and 180 mBar, better to keep it more wet, between 80 and 120 mBar.



## Using Outside

Below freezing temperatures normally don't hurt the EasySoak. If not buried though, it's usually best to bring inside during the winter to prevent insects from chewing into it.

## Biofilm, Algae, and Bacterial Slime

If algae, biofilm, or any kind of bacterial slime builds up in your system and decreases the water flow too much, you can clean and regenerate your EasySoak by opening up your end plugs, taking out the flow restrictors, and running soap and/or hydrogen peroxide through the tubing. To prevent things like this growing in a reservoir, you can make sure light doesn't get into it and add a tablespoon of bleach or hydrogen peroxide to the reservoir. Keeping water source on also reduces the chance of clogging, insect/rodent attacks, salt build up, helps maintain ideal moisture consistently, and allows for deeper water penetration that leads to longer and stronger roots.

## What to Expect

Most of us are used to fast and furious irrigation. Because these systems are intended to water so slowly (1 pint per foot per 24 hours), we need to be much more patient. Normally the emission rates are much higher during the first week after installation while the EasySoak is conditioning. Because EasySoak works on such low pressure, filters are not necessary. The pressure isn't high enough to push sediment into the thousands of EasySoak holes. Particles will naturally gravitate to the ends of the lines and you easily flush the sediment out by quick-disconnecting the end plug. If you've attached the tubing on both ends, you can make a flush valve with a tee.



## How Close to Run EasySoak lines/rows?

Spacing of the EasySoak rows depends on soil type and growing methods. In sandy and high drainage soil with lots of perlite, sand, or volcanic rock; rows normally are best with 6" spacing. With clay soils or ones with lots of cocoa or peat, the spacing can increase to 12". If using thick mulches, the rows can also be further apart.

## Large Commercial Systems

If the rows are longer than 300 feet, best to supply water from both ends to help equalize pressure. Also best to use a larger header pipe for bigger systems, such as 1/2" or 1".

## Living Soil

If using thick mulch, you can put the EasySoak in between the mulch and soil layer. We have had many growers say that the consistent wet mulch is tastier for earthworms. Our EasySoak works great for no-till living soil grows!

## EasySoak and Gravity Systems

In gravity systems, you need at least 7' of head to reach 3psi. If not sure, using our manometer (IG16217) will tell you the pressure at the end of your line. If using a pressure system (garden hose) there is no need to worry about pressure.