

INDIGENUS

Care Guide & Warranty



Planter Installation

Thank you for purchasing one of our Indigenus planters, please find below the information you will need to assemble and maintain your planter.

Assembling the Planters

Depending on the size of the planter, it will either come delivered complete and ready for planting, or it will come in two boxes and will need to be assembled.

1. Unpacking

If you have purchased one of our larger **Soma** planters (XL), the liner will come in the box with the GRC (glass reinforced concrete) base. If so, remove the liner before fitting the wood or cork top and then place the liner inside the assembled piece. Ensure that the top (for a Soma planter) is aligned with the base correctly. All other planters come fully assembled with the liner already in place. If you've purchased a **Terra** planter, place the GRC portion onto the wooden base **with the feet aligned with the corners of the planter**.

2. Rainfall Base Plug

If the planter is going to be used outdoors where it will be exposed to direct rainfall, then **it is imperative to remove the plug** on the base of the planter, to allow water to flow out onto the floor. **By not removing the rainfall base plug the planter will fill up with water and potentially break.** If the planter is being used indoors or is covered from rain, then ensure that the threaded plug is tightly secured in the base to avoid water leaking onto the floor.

3. The Liner

Most of our liners are “self-watering” and consist of four pieces (Only our Table Top Somas and Steen planters do not have this type of liner):

1. The Bucket
2. The Soil Deck for the Water Reservoir
3. The Fill Pipe with Cap Gauge lid and Clear Straw
4. The Liner Plug at the bottom of the bucket

First determine if the planter is going to be exposed to rainfall. If rain is going to fall directly onto the plant, then remove the small **liner plug** from the base of the bucket (whilst also ensuring the planter's base plug is removed). This will allow the rainfall water to pass through the liner and not waterlog the plant (or break the planter base). If the planter is protected from rainfall or is indoors, then ensure the **liner plug** is firmly inserted into the bottom of the **bucket** to create a tight seal.

Next, remove the **cap gauge** from the fill pipe and make sure the **clear straw** is securely attached to this lid. Feed the **fill pipe** (without the **cap gauge**, smooth end first) up through the bottom of the **soil deck** and then place the **cap gauge** back. Now place the **soil deck** (with **fill pipe** inserted) into the liner **bucket** flat side up. The assembled liner is now ready to be placed into the planter for use.

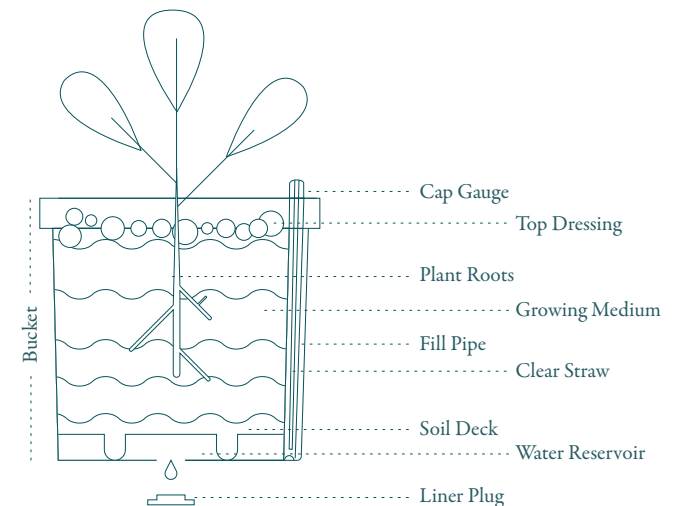
4. How to Use the Liner

The liner must be used in conjunction with the planter. The “self-watering system” is only of benefit when used indoors. Once planted, and the roots have matured (this takes approx. 6 months) they can be watered on a bi-weekly basis, depending on the environment. For outdoors, you would water as normal.

Fill the liner with soil when planting the plant and consider placing absorbent stones or fibres towards the bottom to assist with water elevation.

Once planted, pour water into the fill pipe until the level indicates an amount of water equivalent to the height of the soil deck (approximately one tenth of the height of the liner). Through a process called capillary action, the water will automatically rise in the liner to feed the plant and at the same time the roots of the plant will grow down to the soil deck level where the water sits. The benefit of this system is that most of the soil remains dry and the plant gets evenly fed with water.

For liners with the cap gauge you can check the water level using the straw attached. With the cap gauge on the fill pipe, place a finger over the tiny hole on the lid to make a vacuum and remove the cap – the clear straw will indicate the level of the water.





Maintaining the Planters

1. Do Not Fill the Concrete Base

Do not fill the concrete base with water or soil and do not plant directly into the base. The planter has been designed to work in conjunction with the supplied plastic liner and is not designed to withstand the ground force of being filled with earth. Filling the planter base will most likely result in the base breaking.

2. Cleaning the planters

Marks or stains may occur when you are watering your plants, or if you've placed the planter in a high traffic area. Most stains are easy to remove. To remove any marks, use a mixture of warm water and dish washing liquid and scrub the affected area with a brush or sponge. Make sure to soak the area well before, and rinse thoroughly afterwards. You may need to do this a few times to see results depending on the severity of the stain. **Do not use sandpaper or any abrasive materials to clean your planter.**

3. Maintaining the Wood

We offer our wood in a natural or oiled finish, please refer to our Wood Care information on the next page for advice on maintenance and care.

4. Maintaining the Cork

Like the wood, the cork will also age over time. It will grey, and the texture will become rougher. The natural resins in the cork that bind it will keep it intact for years and, much as a wine cork lasts in a bottle of wine, it will resist water. The cork does not require maintenance, but to renew the surface it can be lightly sanded with 220 grit sandpaper and this will reveal fresh dark cork and remove the greying, should this be your preference.

5. Small Concrete Cracks

The GRC is also a natural material that ages with character and can develop very light surface cracks over time known as 'crazing'. This is not a quality issue and to test if the cracks are problematic a paper clip can be lightly pushed into the crack to reveal if it is too deep. In almost all cases these cracks are purely surface aesthetics.

Wood Care & Maintenance

Indigenous wood products are supplied by BENCHMARK WOOD CLASSICS and designed to withstand a lifetime of weathering. Regular care will greatly enhance the resilience of the wood and its capacity to withstand even the harshest of conditions. Iroko is an African hardwood with a high oil content, is very durable, and is resistant to both rot and insect attack.

It's important to accept that the weathering of the wood, the slight warps and cracks that may occur, the wear and tear it receives over the years, are all an essential part of the wood developing its own natural finish and character. Also, that any marks or change in colour to a silvery-grey hue on raw iroko are expected and generally only superficial.

During the first 12 to 18 months the wood may leak pigments onto the concrete base or floor. As the wood is a natural material this is to be expected. The pigments appear to stain the concrete, but these can be removed by washing the surface of the concrete with a brush or sponge and soap. When the wood is not oiled this 'bleeding' will happen more rapidly and intensely earlier on, especially after being exposed to rainfall.

Untreated

Our recommendation would be to allow the wood to weather naturally. Over the course of a few months, it will gradually fade to a silver-grey colour, and a degree of cracking can be expected. Before it goes completely silver-grey, it will go through its "teenage phase", when it becomes a little blotchy or streaky whilst the natural tannins wash out. This is completely normal, and with a few wash downs the tannins will diminish until depleted

Oiled

If you'd prefer to oil the wood, we use a South African product called Pronature Outdoor Sealer (www.pronature.co.za) and suggest the tints "Weathered" or "Natural". Weathered will give the wood a silver-grey look from the start whereas Natural accents the natural honey colour in the pigment. Apply the oil every three to twelve months, depending on the rate of weathering. This will prevent the need to re-sand the wood in-between coats.

As new appearance

The perfect "as new" appearance is impossible to retain unless it is kept indoors, protected from direct sunlight, water and other 'stains' such as oil, handcream and food. If you wish for the wood to retain its pristine appearance, as if new, this will require additional treatment and maintenance. Sealing the timber with a preservative like Rubbol, which requires you to sand down and recoat the wood every year or two (depending on weathering again) will help to achieve this finish. This however is not our preferred or recommended finish.

Indigenus Planter Warranty

Our warranty is valid for 24 months from the date of purchase and covers all manufacturing defects. The warranty is non-transferrable and is only valid for the original purchaser, in the original country of purchase with the original receipt.

It covers repair or replacement of unusable or defective parts free of charge during the warranty period after inspection and acceptance by Indigenus.

The warranty excludes damage resulting from careless or incorrect furniture installation, potential damage from accidents such as that resulting from a fall, impact, natural disaster, fire and, in any case, all defects that cannot be attributed to defects in the manufacture of the product. Moreover, the warranty is not valid if our products are modified or repaired by anyone other than authorized Indigenus personnel. General wear and tear, damage due to poor upkeep or improper use of the product are not considered defects of manufacture.

Natural variations in the colour of the wood, changes in colour under ambient or artificial light, slight variations in dimensions owing to high humidity or dry conditions and the grain of wood, knots, natural cracks or other natural characteristics of wood products are not covered by the warranty.

Indigenus planters must be used in conjunction with our custom liners provided to validate this warranty. Additionally, the warranty is not valid if products are placed outdoors and not under cover without the liner plug and planter base plug being removed.

In the case of freight or manufacturing defects, we will require clear photographs of all sides of the original packaging or boxing. Close up images of the damage(s) followed by a full photograph of the planter in situ. This must be received by Indigenus before a claim can be opened. Please note, where multiple planters have been damaged, each planter damaged will need to be reported in the same way.

*From all of us at Indigenus, we hope you enjoy
your new planters for years and years to come...*

www.indigenus.co.za