




# **Dripper System** Installation Guide



Adjustable end dripper in a pot plant

## Congratulations on acquiring a **Streamfast Dripper System**, the simple, easy to install patio irrigation system.

The most efficient way to water plants in pots and hanging baskets is with a dripper system which delivers water direct to the soil, thus minimising evaporation, and can be set up to ensure that all plants get the right amount of water. The least efficient method is to use a hose pipe.

The Streamfast Dripper System is designed for simplicity and ease of operation. No tools are required except a pair of scissors or a sharp knife, although you may find a jug of hot water helpful. Our starter kit contains everything you need to water 9 pots and 2 hanging baskets\*, including 15 metres of supply tubing and 24 adjustable dripper units.

### By installing our dripper system you will:

**Save water** - an increasingly scarce resource on our crowded island.

**Save time** - no more standing over pots with hosepipes or heaving watering cans up to hanging baskets - just turn it on and turn it off - or, better still, fit and programme a timer and leave your pots and baskets to be watered automatically.

**Save money** - if your water is delivered via a meter.

### How many drippers do I need?

There is no hard and fast rule as some plants, and planting patterns, need more water than others. Our drippers are adjustable to ensure that every pot or basket gets the water it needs.

As a general guide we suggest you initially use:

- 1 dripper for a small pot (6 inch diameter)
- 2 drippers for a medium pot (10 inch diameter)
- 3 drippers for a large pot (15 inch diameter)

Hanging baskets will usually need more water than an equivalent sized pot. Initially try:

- 3 or 4 drippers for a 12 inch diameter basket
- 5 or 6 drippers for an 18 inch diameter basket

**Note:** Using adjustable drippers means that larger pots and baskets can be watered with fewer drippers (as suggested above) with higher flow rates from each, allowing two drippers to do the work of three.

\*based on 4 small (6") pots, 3 medium (10") pots, 2 large (15") pots and 2 (12") hanging baskets.

# Setting up your Dripper System

## Step 1 – Connect to your water supply

First attach the Pressure reducer to your garden tap and one end of the supply tubing to the Pressure reducer.

Run the tubing to the first pot or basket you want to water.



## Step 2 – Laying out the tube

Opposite each pot or basket, cut the tube with a pair of scissors (or a sharp knife) and insert a 'T', then cut an appropriate length off the end of the main line for the spur and run it from the 'T'.

**Note:** You may find it easier to get the tubing over the barbs of the 'T' if you dip the tubing into a jug of hot water for a few seconds first.

For a small pot simply insert a dripper into the end of the spur. When you run a spur to a pot (or basket) needing more than 1 dripper, you will need to insert additional 'T' pieces to create sufficient endings.

## Step 3 – Positioning drippers

Insert the appropriate number of drippers for each pot or basket (a single dripper near the centre of a small pot, several evenly spaced for larger pots).

Fix the supply tubing in place using the pipe holders provided. You are now ready to turn on the water and check the result.

**Note:** Adjust the water supplied to your different pots by adjusting the screwed ends of the drippers.

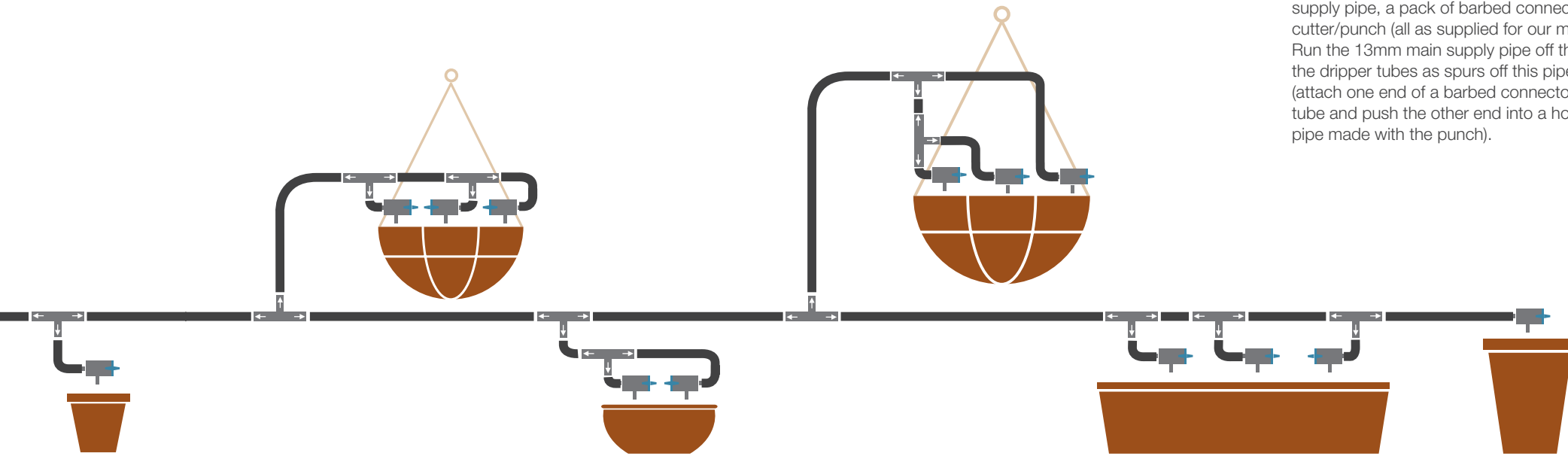
## Customising your system

### Timer:

You can automate your system by adding a timer. Many people choose to set the system to operate at night when evaporation is lower and the water pressure is more reliable. You are also helping the water company by spreading demand more evenly over the 24 hour day.

### Extending the system:

Each line of dripper tubing will supply up to 25 drippers, depending on the way the flow rates are adjusted. A garden tap will normally supply over 100 drippers, or 4 or 5 lines of tubing. If you wish to extend your dripper system we suggest you purchase a length of 13mm supply pipe, a pack of barbed connectors and a hole cutter/punch (all as supplied for our micro-sprinklers). Run the 13mm main supply pipe off the tap and connect the dripper tubes as spurs off this pipe where needed (attach one end of a barbed connector to the dripper tube and push the other end into a hole in the supply pipe made with the punch).



# Watering your flower pots and hanging baskets

**Hanging baskets, newly planted seedlings and small pots may need watering every other day. However, large pots should not be watered too often. It is usually better to water for an hour twice a week than for 20 minutes every day.**

Watering for a short period every day means that the water does not penetrate beyond the surface layers of the soil which also dry out quickly so a significant proportion of the water evaporates back into the atmosphere. The plants find their water close to the surface and develop their root structures accordingly. They then become dependent on this frequent watering and will wither and die quickly if this supply is interrupted for any reason.

Watering twice a week for longer is closer to the normal natural rainfall pattern. The water penetrates deeper into the soil and the plants develop deeper, stonger root structures to gather it. This produces stronger plants which are used to surviving without daily watering.

An hour twice a week is also a more efficient use of water than 20 minutes a day because the total evaporation is lower and more stays in the soil for the benefit of your plants which is where you want it.

## Water Pressure & Flow Rates

For most people their mains water is delivered at between 1.5 BAR and 2 BAR (23psi–31psi). OFWAT sets a minimum of 1 BAR. There is no upper limit and a few people may experience 3 BAR or more.

The Streamfast Dripper Systems work best at 1.5 BAR and we supply a Pressure Reducer in our starter kit.



Adjustable dripper in a hanging basket

# The Streamfast Garden Dripper System

is designed for maximum ease of installation, quality and value for money. It is an adaptable and extendable system that is efficient and environmentally friendly. To see our other garden watering solutions and accessories visit [streamfast.co.uk](http://streamfast.co.uk).

## Streamfast Watering Solutions

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