

How to Create a Wicking Bed in a Foam Box

What you will need:

- Foam 'broccoli' box
- Gravel
- Piece of shade cloth (same dimensions as the box)
- PVC pipe with two holes drilled 2cm up from the bottom



Step 1:

Make an overflow hole (2cm in diameter) in the end of the foam box 12cm from the bottom. The hole can be made by pushing the PVC pipe through the foam.

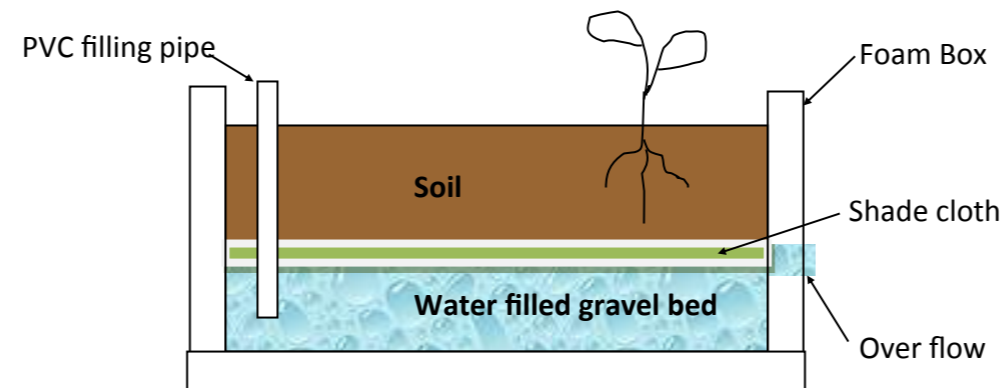
Step 2:

Add your piece of PVC pipe that will act as the filling mechanism. Make sure the holes are at the bottom



Step 3:

Add the gravel to the box evenly until it reaches the overflow hole



Step 4:

Insert your layer of shade cloth slide it between your overflow hole and the gravel at one end.



Step 5:

Add good quality soil or potting mix and compost



Step 6:

Plant your wicking bed with veggies/herbs



Step 7:

Water your wicking bed by pouring water down the vertical PVC pipe - this will fill the gravel reservoir. You know it is full when water starts coming out of the overflow hole. Water again when the soil starts to dry out on top.

Ideas:

Try growing herbs and salads and place your foam box near the house so it is easy to duck out and grab the ingredients you need while cooking. You can also decorate your foam box to add some colour to your garden. Happy Growing! If you would like to know how to set up a larger raised garden wicking bed contact the Gawler Regional NRC

