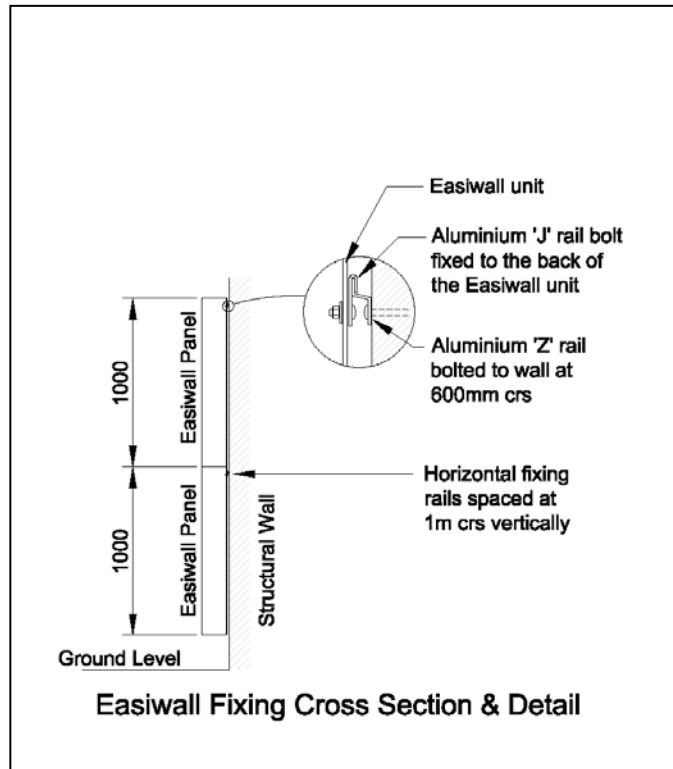
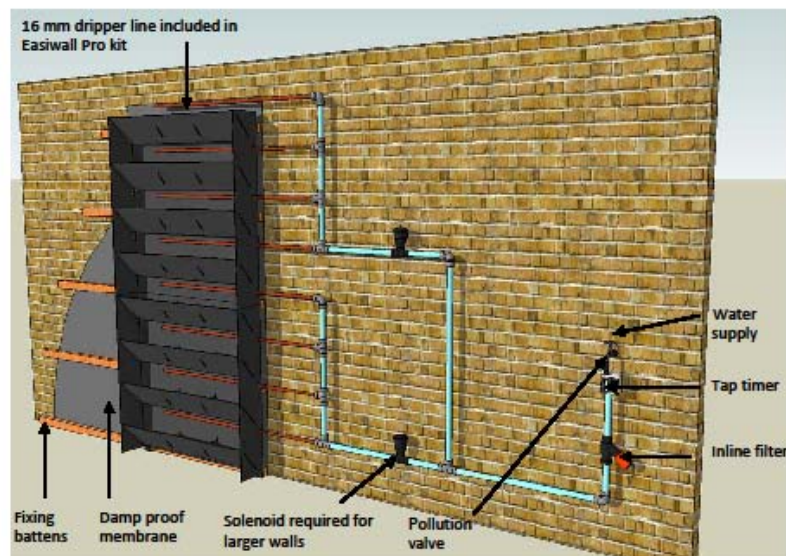


Professional information pack

Easiwall – Irrigation and FAQs



Irrigation schematic for simple domestic installation – professional scheme available on request



FAQs

- 1. *What can Treebox units be attached to?***

House walls, courtyard walls, boundary walls, fence uprights, balcony railings.
- 2. *Is my wall strong enough?***

As the units bear down vertically, there is very little force pulling them off the wall. But, if you have any doubts, or are planning to construct more than two units high, it is a good idea to seek professional advice.
- 3. *How strong are the units?***

They are built to withstand loads of over 100kg/m² when correctly fixed to the wall.
- 4. *How long will the units last?***

The plastic incorporates an additive to withstand the effects of UV light and is guaranteed for 15 years. In fact, the units are made of the same material as cattle feeding troughs, so they are very robust.
- 5. *How long will the planting last?***

From 1 to 3 years or even longer. It depends on the planting substrate used, and the care and attention given to the planting and maintenance.
- 6. *What keeps the plants from falling out?***

As the troughs are 200mm deep, gravity plus the size of root ball keeps the plants in place. The plants are well established before planting, so they are able to withstand wind.
- 7. *How heavy are the units?***

A 1m² unit weighs 15kg when empty. When planted up and irrigated, it will weigh 60 – 68 kg.
- 8. *Do I need to feed and water all year round?***

Treat your installations like plants in pots. Generally the irrigation system is turned off in the winter, and drained down to prevent frost damage. Irrigation is restarted in the spring after testing to make sure the system is all working. If you are concerned by a dry spell, then operate the system manually.
- 9. *How automated can the system be?***

Generally the irrigation works on a timer, but it could also be possible to turn on the watering from a mobile phone. Treebox is also working on a mat-type of substrate with built in water monitoring.
- 10. *What size of plants should I use?***

This depends on what kind of effect is required. For an instant lush look, even 2 litre plants can be accommodated after gently squeezing or trimming the root ball. The ideal size would be 1.2 to 1.5 litre pots.
- 11. *Does Easiwall come in any other colours?***

As well as matt black, the units are also available in grey/beige, green and terracotta. Generally the black is the best as it is not seen behind the plants. For a special effect, some designers may choose another colour and arrange the plants so the plastic stays on view, adding to the design.
- 12. *How far out do the units extend?***

The units extend 150mm from the back panel (to which must be added the battens if used), and each trough is 200 mm deep.
- 13. *Can irrigation be varied to allow for different conditions at the top and bottom?***

If hand control of irrigation is used, this is easy to do. Where automatic irrigation is used, each row of panels can have its own timer, so that the more exposed top panels can be supplied with more water than those at the base of the installation.
- 14. *Will there be a problem with water entering the supporting wall?***

As the panels provide a 6mm space between the back board and the wall there should be no problem. The use of battens extends this further. The side facing the wall is shiny, so any water beads up and trickles down the plastic. In some situations the wall may need waterproofing and this is easily achieved with a membrane. Where fixings penetrate this membrane a chemical grout should be used in the fixing holes to maintain the waterproofing. If there is a particular problem with driving rain falling down a wall, it may be necessary to use flashing along the top fixing bar.

- 15. *Can I incorporate lighting or other features?***
Here, the only limit is your imagination. Up-lighting, or back-lighting, water features, garden ornaments, wooden frames - all can be included in your design.
- 16. *Can I use this system indoors?***
Absolutely yes - just choose the correct plants, and consider the practical issues of watering and lighting, and the world is your oyster.
- 17. *Do I have to establish the plants first?***
No. This is a main advantage of the Easiwall system. Established plants in 1 or 1.5 litre pots can be used for instant effect – there is no need to use plug plants that require a period of establishment either on site (ugly) or offsite (expensive).
- 18. *What do I do about services or vents?***
Unless they can be professionally relocated, keep units 150 mm away in all directions from services or vents. Also extend central heating vents by at least 150 mm so that their output is kept well away from the foliage.
- 19. *What happens at columns or other changes in wall profile?***
Either cut the units to size, or order the angled units from Treebox, which make it easy to hide the column or other projection.
- 20. *What do I do about the water running out of the bottom unit?***
Unlike some other systems, the Easiwall unit is supplied with irrigation supply along each planting line, so it does not rely on water trickling down. This means that there will be very little water leaking from the base. It can drain directly into a soft landscape surface, or it can be collected in a French gravel drain. In a paved area a plastic gutter can be used beneath the panels to direct the water to a drain or soft landscaping area.
- 21. *What sort of compost can I use?***
This depends on how long you want the planting to last. For the shorter term use a 2:1 mix of horticultural sand or vermiculite and compost. In the longer term., to avoid possible problems with compost shrinkage and salinity a more inert planting medium should be considered, such as a solid mineral fibre substrate. Enquire at Treebox for more information about this.
- 22. *How do I cope with large walls where growing conditions may vary?***
Adjust plant choice to cope with drier, more sunny and windy conditions at the top, and dark moist conditions at the base. As the irrigation system provides separate supplies to each unit, their varying irrigation needs can be catered for.
- 23. *How long does it take to install?***
Installation times vary, depending on access, working room, and whether scaffolding is required for working at height. With an experienced team it can take as little as 1 day to install 10m² of units and another day to plant them.
- 24. *Can the units be freestanding?***
Yes, provided the units are seated on a firm base and tied back to a supporting structure, e.g. posts.
- 25. *How easy is it to reshape the units?***
It is easy to use a panel saw, or you can order bespoke units from Treebox. Please allow 3 to 4 weeks for delivery of these.
- 26. *Will the plants grow to hide the outside edge of a unit or installation?***
Choose plants that will spread to hide the frame edges, or consider ordering special edge units from Treebox.

Examples



Greening up a small courtyard in London



Disguising an unsightly four-storey wall in Notting Hill

3 Aug 2011

Gardening is looking up

Treebox Ltd, Penten Estates, 288 Haydon's Road, London SW19 8JZ
T: 01923 853813 E info@treebox.co.uk W: www.treebox.co.uk