

## FAQ – IDEALIST PLANTERS 2023 UPDATE

### Environmental Awareness



#### **Can I use these planters indoors and outdoors?**

These planters are designed for outdoor use but can be lined using a waterproof liner if they are required to be used indoors.

#### **Do the planters have drainage holes?**

Yes, the planters have drainage holes which are pre-drilled into the base of the unit. Check model details for confirmation some planters are designed for indoor use only.

#### **What are the planters made from?**

The ingredients to the planters include: Composite stone powder, resin, chopped Fibreglass strands and a fibreglass netting used from recycled materials.

#### **Are the planters UV and frost resistant?**

The use of quality materials and fibreglass which makes the planters UV and Frost resistant, providing durability. Please be aware the units will weather over time naturally.

#### **Should I seal the units as the manufacturer has mentioned in the product manual?**

Yes, to prevent weathering or water damage to your outdoor planters, we highly recommend that you treat the inside and outside of the planter with a sealer as recommended. This will ensure the surface does not experience changes in the natural environment it is in.

#### **Why do I need to follow the planting guide provided the internet tells me it is not required?**

Every manufacturer we work with will have a set of instructions for their products, they know their product the best and the internet is full of information which may not relay to your product. Please do not use third party information and stick to the recommended manufacture's guidance provided.

#### **Can I use any drainage material?**

Our manufacturers recommend hydroclay (known as expanded clay or LECA) and crock for the ability to release and hold water. These two materials have characteristics to allow excess water to pass through but they are also porous materials which means in drought periods the planter has water/moisture being released back into the planter.

#### **Why do I need to fill my planter up to 1/3 in volume?**

The manufacturer recommends a high water table inside the unit to allow the flex of temperatures in cold and warm. Water which is retained in soil will contract and expand this can cause micro fractures in your planter over time. Having a volume of 1/3 allows the unit to expel excess water and reduce the internal pressures caused by the soil, water and the plant roots.

#### **Can the planters shatter or break?**

The nature of the product as it is made from a stone powder composite, will naturally break if impact is taken. Please be careful when transplanting or moving the planters from the existing location to another.

### **What is the best way to clean the planters?**

Use a soapy solution with a clean microfibre cloth, using a gentle sweeping motion will clean the surface for any mineral or dirt deposit. Any abrasive pads/cloths used will scratch the surface of the planter. Re-seal the planter after every cleaning cycle.

### **What is weathering?**

Weathering is a natural process of wearing or being worn by exposure to the atmosphere, this includes the breaking down of stone or dissolving rocks and minerals on to all surfaces exposed outside. Water, salt, acid, plants, animals and changes of temperature are all agents of weathering and erosion.

What will I expect from weathering on this planter?

These planters will weather naturally over time and depending on the colour of the surface the darkest and lightest planters will show mineral deposits from rainfall and dirt deposit from the ground dirt, paint and surface changes. Planters can be touched up using outdoor paints when the surface has changed.

## **Planter Uses**

### **What is the surface characteristics/ visible imperfections on the planter?**

The planters are handmade and thus each planter will have its own unique surface marks and pits. This is the nature of handmade products and each planter is 1 of 1. The surface will show small production marks or hand finished corners. They are not machine produced and will not look equal to the same specification.

### **Do the planters have inserts?**

These planters do not have inserts or a floating shelf. Please follow the manufacturer's instructions when planting, please use drainage material in the base of each unit to allow for flow of water to exit.

### **What will happen if I block the drainage hole when the planter is outside?**

The planter will swell from inside as there is no natural path for excess water to run off from. This in effect will cause damage to the planter causing buckling and swelling. Please keep the drainage channel clear or use a honey comb structure in the base to prolong the life of your planters when using your planters outdoors.

### **Can I raise the planters off the ground?**

There is a raised lip already built into the base of the units, but in effect they should be raised further using levelled stone feet as this increases air flow to the rooting zone.

### **Is the packaging recyclable?**

All of the packaging provided to you is recyclable and will be easily disposed of in your recycling bin. Please separate all materials when recycling.

### **Can I repaint the planter, when it is worn by weathering?**

Yes, with touch-up sprays available at DIY stores.

### **Can the plant roots destroy the planter?**

There can be a situation with the plants which tend to have roots growing aggressively.