Parts / Packs Side Vent Pack (EBP18), Side Vent Additional Hoop Pack (EBP19)

Tools 13mm Spanner

Step 1: Once your polytunnel framework has been constructed you should attach the aluminium side rail in a similar way as you attached the base rail. This is normally positioned approx. 80-100cm above ground level, below the point where the hoops start to curve. The side rail is attached to each of the intermediate (inner) hoops using the brackets provided (see image 1). The side rail is attached to the two end hoops using the 'P' clip fixings (see image 2). Ensure the side rail is straight and that the distance from the base rail remains fairly constant along the length of the polytunnel. This will ensure the roll-down screen sits neatly when in the down position. If your tunnel is on a slight slope then you can allow a slight fall on the side rail, but you will need to make an allowance for this when attaching the roll down screen later.



Step 2: You can now install the main polythene cover on your polytunnel. Follow the main polytunnel instructions for this (only secure to the base rail at this stage) and tension the cover accordingly.

Whilst attaching the main cover to the base rail you should also attach the bottom edge of each of the net panels to the base rail (leave the excess net on the inside of the polytunnel see image 3)

Simply sandwich the net between the polythene and the base rail when clipping the polythene in to place.

Each net panel is attached centrally between each of the hoops. Each of the net panels will have two parallel straight edges and two rough (cut) edges. The rough edges are the top and bottom with the neat straight edges being the sides. This will ensure a neat finish when fully fixed in to position. (See image 4)



Step 3: Now you cut the ventilation holes in the polytunnel cover in the space between the side rail and the base rail. These should be circular holes approx. 50cm in diameter, and positioned centrally between each of the hoops. The top of the hole should be approx. 10cm below the side rail with the bottom of the hole being no less than 25cm above ground level (see images 3 & 4). On 3.7m (12ft) wide and 4.3m (14ft) wide polytunnels you may find the bottom of the hole is higher than 25cm off the ground, especially if the side rail is positioned a little higher. If this is the case you can make the ventilation hole a little larger if you want the extra ventilation.

To do this you can make a circular cardboard template 50cm in diameter, place it in the desired position against the polythene and cut around it with a sharp knife. Alternatively you can draw a circle on the polythene using a marker pen (or similar) tied to a 25cm length of string, creating a type of compass. Then simply cut out the circle of polythene. Make sure you don't leave any slits around the edge of the circles as they may tear over time. Repeat this process in between each of the hoops.

Watch the instruction video online...



Side Vent







IMAGE 8

Step 4: Pull the net panels up behind the side rail, between the side rail and the polythene, allowing the surplus material to drape over the side rail and hang down on the inside (see image 5). When pulled taught, the net panels should hold themselves in position.

Step 5: Roll out the side screen polythene along the outside of the polytunnel and trim the length to match the length of the polytunnel. Don't worry if you cut it a few centimetres short.

Slot together the lengths of tube and attach the handle, then using the self-drilling screw provided, drill through both tubes on the sleeved joint to hold the handle in place. Alternatively you can drill a small hole and use a self-tapping screw.

Lay the tube assembly on the polythene along the lower edge and wrap the polythene around it once. Clip the plastic clamps on to the tube to secure the polythene in place. These should be positioned evenly allowing two clips for each space between each of the hoops. Hold the upper edge of the polythene screen against the side rail so that the tube is sitting horizontal on the ground in line with base rail. An extra pair of hands may be useful at this stage. The side screen polythene should then be clipped in to the side rail using the Wiggle-Wire (see image 6). This will trap all three materials(at the same time) - the polythene screen, the main polythene cover and the net panels. The side screen should now be in position. You should wind it up and down several times to make sure you're happy with its operation and make sure it goes up and down evenly and level. The Wiggle-Wire can un-clipped and re-attached if you need to reposition the polythene screen. Once you are happy with the side vent screen you can trim off any excess net on the inside and trim off the excess polythene on the outside to leave a neat finish.

Step 6: To prevent the screen blowing around in the wind you need to attach the nylon webbing. These are normally positioned as close to each of the hoops as possible, including the first and last hoops. Simply attach the Wiggle-Wire spring hooks in place on the base rail and side rail and attach the strips of webbing. Tie one end of the webbing to one of the hooks on the top clip and run the webbing down and through both hooks on the bottom clip, and back up to the second hook on the top clip. Pull tight and tie off (see image 7). Repeat this process on all the clips. Finally, any left-over anti-hot spot tape can be applied to the lower part of the first hoop, over the main polythene cover, to give a little extra protection to the cover from any abrasion from the handle (see image 8). Your side vent screen is now completed.

Note: The handle on the tube slides in and out. You need to slide it out to free the handle in order to operate the screen, and push it back in afterwards so that it holds against the hoop to prevent the screen inadvertently rolling down. Your screen can be partially or fully opened giving you the level of ventilation you require.