What is a "Wicking Bed"

A wicking garden bed is a enclosed low maintenance garden system that consumes far less water than a conventional raised garden bed.

Wicking beds are a Bay Friendly way to garden because fertiliser and other nutrients are sealed in the soil, minimising the impact on the environment.

Benefits of Wicking Beds

- Uses 50% less water
- Save on fertiliser
- Prevents tree root invasion
- Prevents weed invasion
- Low maintenance
- Low cost to maintain

Materials required

- Garden Bed Frame (pre-made or recycled)
- Strong pond liner
- A filler (gravel/stone) and soil
- Soft wood chippings
- Shad cloth
- A pipe (PVC) to take water into the reservoir
- A drain
- Mulch to stop water loss by evaporation

GeoCatch

Bay Friendly Gardens

Constructing a Wicking Garden Bed

BAY OK

Mulch Prevents surface evaporation

Shade cloth Separates soil from water reservoir.

Watering Pipe PVC pipe, used to fill water reservoir.

40cm

70cm

Capillary Action Method used to water plants.

Water reservoir Prevents evaporation.

Pond liner Provides a physical barrier, preventing nutrients entering the environment.
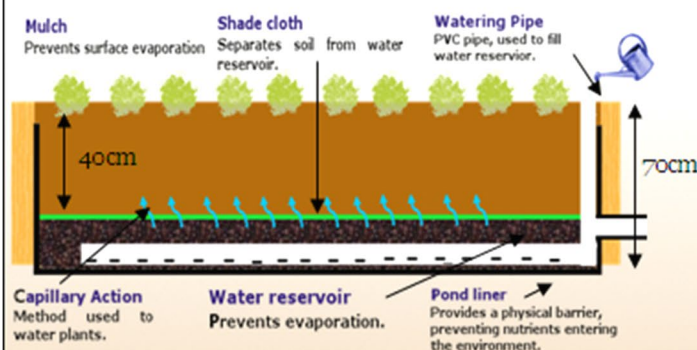
Step 2 - Constructing the wicking bed

Level the ground and remove any rocks or sharp material which could rip or tear the pond liner before placing the garden frame down.

Step 5

Cover the water pipe with the gravel/stone.

Step 1 Preparing the watering pipe

Drill or Cut drainage holes along the bottom side of the pipe, to allow water into the reservoir.

Attach the elbow and upright PVC pipe.

Cut a hole in the side of the frame for the drainage pipe.

Step 3

Place the pond liner in the wicking bed frame. The liner needs to cover the sides of the frame in order to contain gravel/stone for the reservoir. Place soft wood chippings at the base, to protect pond liner.

Step 6

Lay the shade cloth down, separating the reservoir from the soil. You may need to cut a hole in the material to allow room for the watering pipe.

Step 4

Now place a small hole in the pond liner for drainage pipe and connect watering pipe.

Hole in pond liner

Step 7

Fill the rest of the garden in with soil, plant and place mulch on top to prevent water loss through evaporation.