

Hydroponic Grow Tower Care and Maintenance

Lights

Keep the lights on a timer. 12 hours on and 12 hours off is the best schedule.

Nutrients and Water Level

1. Starting the tower: Prepare your tower by mixing the fertilizer of your choice according to the instructions on the fertilizer label and fill the base/reservoir of the tower with 3-4 gallons of this nutrient and water solution. **READ** the directions, don't over fertilize!!!!
 - a. When you add water to the tower initially, add 2 teaspoons of fertilizer per gallon.
 - b. When you add water as the tower is going, reduce it to 1 tsp/gallon
2. Monitor water levels and add water and nutrients when it gets below halfway in the bottom bucket. Add 1-2 gallons at a time. Add one tsp/gallon for maintenance water additions. Reducing the fertilizer on water additions after the initial starting of the system prevents salt buildup and nutrient overload.



Algae

You WILL get algae in the tower. It's normal and not a bad thing. You can wipe the tower with a paper towel to remove the algae. If you have too much algae in the water in the bottom bucket and the water gets very green, replace all the water and treat it as you would as if you were starting the tower again.

Plant Health

Watch leaves for any browning or yellowing around the edges. Brown- too much nutrient. Yellow – Not enough! Adjust as needed.

Look for aphids or other critters on your leaves on a regular basis. Use a non-toxic pesticide such as neem or similar plant based solution for ridding the plants of the pests.

Adding New Plants to Your Tower

1. Plants should be started on a shelf with lights at most 3" from the container they are grown in. If you don't have a shelf, grow the plants on a plate on the top of the tower. Keep watered regularly to keep them from drying out. A spray bottle is best.
2. Plants should have their second set of leaves before adding them to the tower.
3. Be sure to push the cube or grow media down far enough into the elbow so that it is securely nestled in the elbow underneath the three holes that you drilled but be sure not to push them too far and lose them inside the tower.

Harvesting Your Plants

1. Plants do not need to be harvested all at once. You can use the leaves as they grow.
2. Pick lettuce leaves from the outside to encourage continuing growth. Do not pick from the middle of lettuce
3. Herbs should be picked so that you don't remove all the leaves. The plants will sprout new leaves.
4. Always remove any flowers on herbs.