

Living Wall Maintenance Guide

This guide provides information to help with the development of your plants.

Irrigation

Where there are plants there must be water! An irrigation system must be available as soon as you plant your wall as your living wall cannot be sustained without a proper irrigation system. Please test and inspect the irrigation system regularly and monitor any automated system.

Irrigation duration & frequency will need to be adjusted a few times throughout the year, before winter (November), Spring(March) and Summer (June). It is important to check for blockages, leaks and flow rates at this time. Please note that irrigation needs to be kept 'on' during the winter, although **we strongly advise you to turn off the system during periods of freezing temperatures.**

Living Wall	Standard Summer Irrigation Settings*	Standard Winter Irrigation Settings*
Time	3-5 mins/day	2 mins / 2-3x week

**Please note that these standard settings are guidelines only and will vary for each installation depending on light levels and aspect. For any further guidance please feel free to contact our office.*

Number of visit per annum

These vary according to each client's requirements and from wall to wall however on average there are 6 visits a year. These break down into;

- *4 Inspections - these look at the health of plants and to check the irrigation*
- *2 horticulture visits - these involve pruning and adding any new plants*

Pruning & Deadheading

During the first year of planting pruning should not be required as the plants will be establishing themselves. From second year onwards, pruning should be carried out once or twice a year in order to keep a tidy appearance. The best months for pruning are April/May and September/October. It is a good idea to regularly remove dead leaves to keep plants in good health.

Fertilising

Two annual feeds with a liquid fertiliser in spring and summer are essential. If the living wall has a fertigation system, the nutrients should be directly added to the feeding tank and set at a of 2% dosage rate. This unit must be refilled at the beginning of every season.

Pests and diseases

Due to the number of different varieties of plants within each installation, it is difficult to specify a single method of prevention. Regular visual checks should be carried out to detect and eradicate any pests or problems in the early stages. If the living wall contains edible plants we recommend to take extra caution when selecting a treatment product, and always follow the instructions on the packaging to ensure safe and correct application.

Vine Weevil

Vine weevil is now considered the most serious plant pest. This is an insect that can infest a wide range of ornamental plants and fruits. We strongly advise you to add nematodes to the affected soil/growing medium. The nematodes attack the larvae, releasing bacteria that kill the pest and break down their tissue for the nematodes to digest. A new generation of nematodes are produced inside the larva's body, they will go on to leave in search of more larvae.

Apply from August to November when larvae are young and from March to May before they pupate.

Soils and Growing Substrates

Top-up of growing substrate may be required due to wind, rain or animal activity.

Finally...

If you are in any doubt about the condition of your living wall, please contact us at: +44(0)20 31376971 or send us an email to: info@meristemdesign.co.uk