



26' GROWING DOME RODENT PROTECTION OPTION

MATERIALS LIST FOR OPTIONAL RODENT PROTECTION (OWNER SUPPLIED)

7 - 2' x 50' rolls 1/4" Wire mesh (Hardware cloth)
(If rolls are a different size, you'll need 605 sq. ft. total assuming full interior dome coverage)
Wire staples (If ground is soft enough to hammer them into)
1-1/2" star drive ss screws (T-20 bit included in kit) and 1" fender washers
Cardboard

There are 2 types of rodent, burrowing (gophers, prairie dogs, voles) and surface (rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, mice). If burrowing rodent protection inside the Growing Dome® is a concern, now is the time to install it.

INSTALLATION FOR BURROWING RODENTS

We recommend 1/4" hardware cloth. It's actually woven metal with a 1/4" square pattern that comes on a roll and is fairly easy to cut with metal tin snips. Start in the middle of the Growing Dome, laying out a strip going east and west. Leave enough material on each end of the strip to turn up and screw into the bottom plate of the foundation wall through the sheet metal liner using 1-1/2" star drive screws and 1" fender washers. Lay out another strip to the south, overlapping the first by 1" to 2". Landscape staples can be used to keep the overlapped edges in place if your ground is soft enough to pound the staples into. (If you need to, you can cut lengths of the wire that held the roll together to hold the overlapped pieces together.) Continue south until you have covered that area entirely.

Then go back to the middle and add strips going north, again overlapping by 1" to 2", turning up the ends at the walls, and screwing into the bottom plate. You will need to cut out the area where the above ground pond goes. See the "Above Ground Pond Layout" Diagram 17-D1 for information on the layout of the oval pond. This is the area you will need to cut out. (It is also the area you will need to dig out for the pond.) We have found it easiest to cut the hardware cloth approximately 12" wider than the pond rough layout opening. Dig out the pond area approximately 6" more than the rough layout. After the pond metal and liner have been installed and the area around the bottom of the pond has been backfilled (see end of "Above Ground Pond Stage 2" Written Instructions 19-W1 Step 19), you can continue the hardware cloth up to the outside edge of the pond metal.

If rodent protection is a big concern, while we don't recommend this, you can use the cutout pond section and drop it down after you have dug out for the pond. Make sure the pond sheet metal is placed over the cut edges of the hardware cloth so there will be no chance for the edges to curl up and possibly rupture the liner. It is important that you cover the hardware cloth inside the pond metal completely with cardboard before you put in the bottom brace and sand.

These instructions are a suggestion and assume a plan to build raised beds. If not, contact Growing Spaces® as there are other options available.

INSTALLATION FOR SURFACE RODENTS

If surface rodent protection is your only concern, installation does NOT need to occur at this time. A layer of 12" wide hardware cloth laid out under the outside perimeter skirt insulation (See Step 21) before it is buried should be sufficient. Simply attach the dome side edge of the hardware cloth to the bottom of the foundation wall with same screws and washers realizing that the foamboard and the hardware cloth are both covered by gravel next to the foundation wall and dirt further out. It may be helpful to bend an almost 90° angle (3" up the wall and 9" on the ground). Remember all of this is a recommendation and not considered part of the Growing Dome kit. If you are not installing the perimeter skirt insulation, attach the edge of the hardware cloth to the bottom of the foundation wall (as described above) then simply lay the hardware cloth approximately 2" deep and cover with gravel next to the foundation wall and dirt further out. (Use with concrete piers will require a more custom fit.)