



26' GROWING DOME PERIMETER INSULATION OPTION

MATERIALS REQUIRED

The Growing Dome® undersoil perimeter insulation option consists of the following owner supplied items:

- 3 Sheets of 4' x 8' x 2" rigid foamboard (plus offcuts from wall insulation)
- Duct tape
- 1/2 cu. yard of 3/4" washed gravel

PERIMETER INSULATION INSTALLATION

We recommend installing 2" rigid foamboard horizontally around the outside of the Growing Dome after the dome is constructed. This "skirting" around the dome prevents frost from creeping under the wall of the dome and helps keep water away from the foundation. In more temperate climates, such as California, Arizona, and places that do not have serious ground freezing, you can omit this undersoil perimeter insulation option.

The insulation is installed after the dome construction is complete. See "Rigid Foam Insulation Layouts" Diagram 21-D1 for specific lengths, quantities, and cutting layouts. Mark a sheet of rigid foamboard with the appropriate measurements per the layout. See "Perimeter Insulation Option" Video 21-V1 for cutting and installing visuals. When cutting another sheet with the same pattern, set the circular saw blade depth so that it cuts into the panel below it. This way you only need to measure and mark the top piece. Make sure the stack of foamboard sheets is on a flat surface when cutting. If the foamboard bends or sags while cutting, it tends to trap the saw blade. Some insulation comes with grooves already "scored" at 16" widths. Simply "break" the insulation over a hard surface, like a sawhorse.

***HINT:** When cutting the foamboard, cut it in an area that can be easily swept up as it tends to make a mess. Also do not cut it near any polycarbonate panels as the poly may still have a considerable amount of static electricity and can attract foamboard "bits and pieces".*

These cut panels are then taped together with duct tape and cut to specific lengths. They are installed by placing the shorter edge of the foamboard next to the base of the foundation wall of the Growing Dome, then sloping down approximately 2" to 4" at the other edge (16" away from the dome wall). Water dripping off the dome will drip onto the insulation and away from the foundation. The result is like a "skirt" which surrounds the dome. Each section is attached to the next with duct tape. Wood stakes (2 per wall section) can be used to hold the perimeter insulation in place if needed. Rodent barrier (hardware cloth) can also be installed just prior to the perimeter insulation. (Hint: If using the gravel ring foundation, the outer edge will probably need to be smoothed down a bit, so the insulation sits on a more even surface.) See "Perimeter Skirt Insulation" Diagram 21-D2 for details on laying out the perimeter insulation and the rodent barrier. (See "Rodent Protection Option" Step 17 for instructions on how to install the rodent barrier for surface rodents.) If using with concrete piers, a more custom cut of the insulation foamboard will be required.

After installing rodent barrier and/or perimeter insulation, it is recommended to then cover it with 3/4" washed gravel for at least 3" to 6" next to the dome wall (so that rain does not cause dirt to splash up on the wall) and soil further out which is sloped down and away from the exterior of the dome. You can also use bark or decorative stones, anything that keeps dirt and water from splashing on the siding will keep your dome looking nicer and lasting longer.