

THE LEAK CHECK

REGULARLY CHECK FOR A LEAK-FREE GREENHOUSE – SUBSTRATE VERSION.
PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN LEAKS.

Why a leak-free greenhouse?

When leaks occur, valuable irrigation water, containing fertilizers and crop protection products, is lost and flows uncontrolled into the soil and/or surface water. Consequently, 100-500 m³ of water per hectare is wasted each year. That costs money and affects our water. Even just two leaking irrigation tubes per path can dramatically affect a region with 1,500 businesses. If you follow these tips and act on them, we can ensure a sustainable sector and a healthy environment in our area.

Blocked drains or gutters

Be sure to clean gutters regularly to prevent flooding and leaks.

Leaky containers

During cultivation and crop rotation (open) containers may leak; make sure they are always covered or are standing under a canopy.

Tears in substrate film or concrete flooring

If ground covers or concrete flooring are damaged, drainage or irrigation water can seep into the soil, resulting in invisible leaks and leaching into the groundwater.

Irrigation tubes that are loose or have been pulled out

Check that irrigation tubes are securely fixed in the substrate and re-anchor any loose irrigation tubes firmly beside the plant.

Identifying leaks

Green deposits at the base of the greenhouse or pipes

Traces of damp or deposits at the base of the greenhouse or pipes indicate leaks from condensation, drain water or rainwater entering the structure.

Damp patches under the cultivation system.

Leaking from the cultivation system or caused by substrate mats that have slid out of place. Straighten the mats and seal the leak.

Subsoil subsidence

Soft spots indicate the structural leaks in pipelines, often noticeable (also with pipe rail systems) because the subsoil is no longer firm.

Wet patches near silos or water storage areas

Water on the ground around installations indicates non-functioning sensors, leaking taps, couplings or overflowing silos.

Tips from the Water Coach

1

Nominate a water manager

Make someone on your team responsible for identifying leaks and maintaining a water action plan.

2

Do regular inspections in and around your greenhouse

Pay attention to areas where weeds grow quickly, the floor is wet or where water tends to collect. This usually indicates a leak.

3

Measure your drainage and wells every fortnight

Measuring regularly helps to identify trends and deviations quicker, avoiding unpleasant surprises and damage.

4

Cleaning is prevention

Clean gutters, filters and drains regularly. A blockage soon leads to flooding and leaks.

5

Fix or report leaks right away

Get into the habit of fixing leaks immediately or report them and schedule repairs.



Still have questions or curious about how to get your greenhouse leak-free? Make an appointment with a water coach: call +31-85 003 64 00 or email water@glastuinbouwnederland.nl



Hoogheemraadschap van
Delfland

