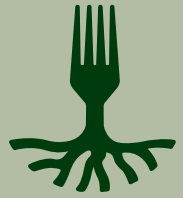


THE FLEX FARM

# Grow Guide

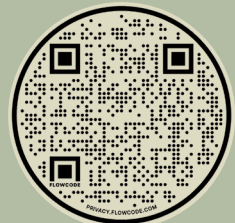


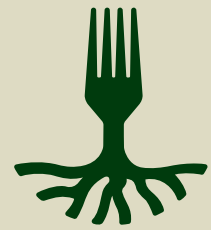
## Grow Guide Videos

Scan the QR code to  
view Grow Guide Videos

[FARMATIVE.FORKFARMS.COM](https://farmative.forkfarms.com)

Version Date: May 2023  
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# Hello, we are Fork Farms

Fork Farms is for change-makers who are responsible for and passionate about nourishing people. We are taking a stand against food insecurity, and the health of people and the environment, by making the most efficient and transformative vertical farming technology on the planet. We are reinventing the global food system to accelerate local access to fresh food and inspire healthier living for all. Join our local food revolution.

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## UNDERSTAND YOUR FLEX FARM

Your Flex Farm is a fully self-contained vertical hydroponic farming system. Hydroponics is the practice of growing without soil. Instead, you add nutrients directly to the water supply to feed the plants. As water runs down the panels to wet the roots, the plants will pull the nutrients right from the water.

### Flex Farm vs. Traditional Agriculture



**ZERO FOOD  
MILES**



**98% LESS  
LAND**



**98% LESS  
WATER**

### Flex Farm vs. Hydroponic Competitors



**40% MORE ENERGY  
EFFICIENT**

## farmative™

### ACCESS FARMATIVE TO ENHANCE YOUR GROWING EXPERIENCE

Farmative is Fork Farms' digital platform to access transformative and collaborative tools for your growing experience. This platform is 100% free to the Fork Farms community of growers. Access exclusive content such as educational and growing resources, shop the Farmative store, and register for Fork Farms hosted events.



If you have not already activated your Farmative account visit:  
[farmative.forkfarms.com/account/register](https://farmative.forkfarms.com/account/register)

Enter your information including the email address you use with Fork Farms and click "Create Account".

### SAFETY FIRST

Be aware that the Flex Farm uses water and electricity, so there is a risk of electric shock if instructions are not followed carefully. Also, some of the materials used are caustic and should be kept out of the reach of children. Always pay special attention to the safety notices included in this guide.

**WARNING** indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.

**CAUTION** indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in minor or moderate injury.

**NOTE** is used to address practices not related to physical injury, which, if not avoided, could cause damage to the Flex Farm or surrounding property.

### HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

The Fork Farms Partnership Support team is here for you for every step in your growing journey.

Please visit [farmative.forkfarms.com](https://farmative.forkfarms.com) for full warranty and return information.



[support@forkfarms.com](mailto:support@forkfarms.com)



**877.886.7736**



**Chat**



## SECTION 2

# Flex Farm Operation

## Supplies included in your Flex Farm

### GROWER TOOLKIT

The Grower Toolkit includes the following items.

PH TEST KIT

TDS METER

MEASURING CUP

MEASURING SPOONS

BRISTLE BRUSH

### SUPPLY BOX

A three month Supply Box comes with each Flex Farm and includes the following items. Please note, items included in the Supply Box are subject to change or may appear different than the items listed here.

ROCKWOOL FLATS

NURSERY TRAY

NUTRIENT A

NUTRIENT B

PH DOWN

SEEDS

### ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES

The following items are recommended and are not included with your Flex Farm.

FOOD SAFETY GLOVES

FACE MASK

CLEAN SPRAY BOTTLE

3% H2O2 SOLUTION  
(AVAILABLE AT ANY  
DRUGSTORE)

FOOD STORAGE BAGS OR  
STERILIZED BINS

SCISSORS OR TOOLS  
(FOR SEED PLANTING/  
HARVESTING)

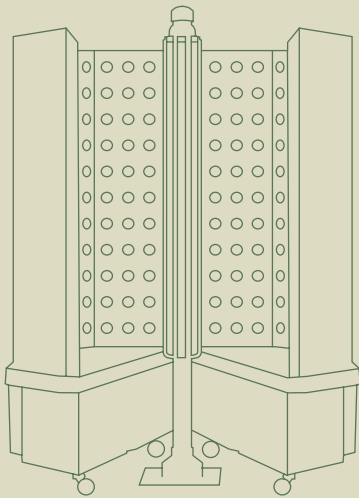
SHOPVAC  
(FOR DRAINING)

### STAY STOCKED UP

Keep your growing supplies stocked.  
Order supplies online through your Farmative account.



# Assigning a Farm Manager



We have found that sites that assign an internal “farm manager” have much higher rates of success over time. This person is your knowledge base on Flex Farm operations and will help students, staff, customers or family members use the farm.

They should not necessarily be responsible for all the work. Instead, they know how the Flex Farm operates and help everyone who works on the Flex Farm keep everything on track to produce great harvests. We recommend getting multiple people engaged. The more people that can get involved the better!

## FLEX FARM TASKS

These tasks should take anywhere from 5-30 minutes per week depending on what you are growing. Note: planting, harvesting, and cleaning will take additional time outside the regular weekly tasks. There is a learning curve at first, but once you use the Flex Farm for a few weeks, it will take less and less time.

### FLEX FARM SETUP

### PLANTING SEEDS

### TRANSPLANTING

### HARVESTING

### WATER MAINTENANCE

### CLEANING

### DEEP CLEANING

Fork Farms is here to provide any support you may need along the way. Please do not hesitate to reach out. Our team is here to help.

Key resources for the Farm Manager to have on hand are:

### FLEX FARM DATA LOG

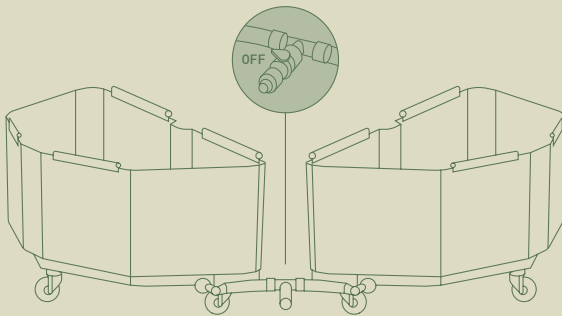
### QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



# Growing Set-Up

Skip to the “Planting Seeds” section if you do not have seedlings ready for transplanting. You can wait to fill your Flex Farm with water until your seedlings are ready for transplanting.

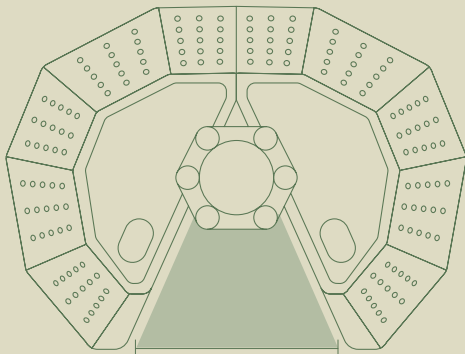
## FILLING TANKS & CHECKING VALVES



Before filling the tank, ensure the drainage valve connecting the two tanks in the back is in the closed position.

Fill the tanks from either side halfway with water (about 25-30 gallons). This can be done with a hose or bucket.

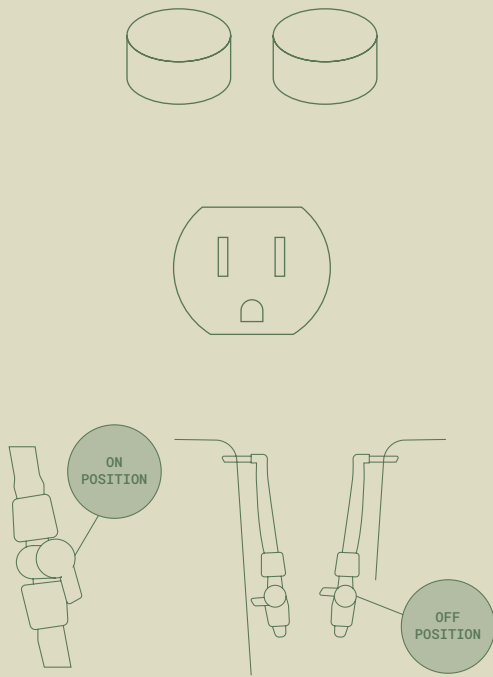
You might notice one side fills quicker than the other. The tanks are connected in the back of the Flex Farm. The water will level out between the tanks within a few minutes.



Do not leave the Flex Farm open more than 90 degrees (or approximately three feet from tank knob to tank knob) for an extended period of time. This will prevent damage to the back drainage tubing and potential leaking.

**NOTE: IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE TANKS HALF FULL AT ALL TIMES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF OVERFLOW AND ENSURE YOUR WATER LEVELS ARE SUFFICIENT TO FULLY SUBMERGE YOUR PUMP AT ALL TIMES.**

**WARNING: DANGER OF ELECTRICAL SHOCK. ALWAYS USE A GROUNDED OUTLET AND KEEP ELECTRICAL CORDS DRY.**



Insert black panel plugs into empty plant spaces that you will not be using for your seedlings. Having a plug or plant in every space also allows the Flex Farm to work to its fullest potential by increasing the humidity in the root chamber. The black panel plugs also prevent additional water splashing out of your system when you turn the pump on. Reference page 12 for tips on which plant spaces should be blocked with black panel plugs.

Plug the pump into a grounded (three-pronged) outlet. The pump starts running automatically when plugged in. The pump should run 24/7.

Make sure the valve on the vertical irrigation line is in the open position.

Flush the drip lines to remove any manufacturing debris. Place the provided measuring cup or a bucket under the valve located at the end of each drip line.

Open each valve for 5 seconds.

Close each valve after flushing is complete.

## Checking & Adjusting pH & Nutrients

When checking and adjusting your pH and nutrients, it is recommended to check and note your pH and nutrient levels at the same time. After checking your levels, add your nutrients and then the pH adjuster if needed.

### CHECKING PH

To check your pH, locate the pH test kit and measuring cup from the Grower Toolkit. Fill your measuring cup with water out of the end of the drip line. Dip the vial into the water or pour into the vial, filling it halfway.

Add 2 - 3 drops of indicator solution to the vial and shake to combine.

Compare the color in the vial to the indicator solution bottle label. Your target pH is 6.0 which will appear as a yellow reading. A slightly yellow-green or yellow-orange is also acceptable, and no adjustment is necessary.

**CAUTION: THE PH KIT CONTAINS CAUSTIC MATERIALS. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. HANDLE CAREFULLY TO AVOID PERSONAL INJURY.**

## CHECKING NUTRIENT LEVELS

Use the TDS meter from the Grower Toolkit to test the concentration of minerals in the Flex Farm water and establish a target nutrient level.

Press the ON/OFF button to turn on the TDS meter. The reading should be 0 PPM (parts per million).

Dip the lower part of the TDS meter into the measuring cup filled with plain water from the Flex Farm.

Avoid submerging the TDS meter more than 1-2 inches into the water. The TDS meter is not waterproof and will malfunction if fully submerged.

Wait 5 seconds to take a reading. With the TDS meter still submerged, press and hold the HOLD button.

Remove the meter.

The number that appears on the screen is your Base Number (TDS reading of your water).

**RECORD YOUR BASE  
NUMBER HERE :**

**RECORD YOUR TARGET  
NUMBER HERE :**

Calculate your nutrient Target Number by adding 700 to your Base Number.

Example:     Base Number: 200  
                   $200 + 700 = 900$   
                  Target Number = 900

**NOTE: BASE PPM READINGS ABOVE 300 CAN  
RESULT IN DIFFICULT WATER CONTROL. RO  
FILTER WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE PPM OF  
WATER SUPPLY. YOU CAN PURCHASE AN RO  
FILTER THROUGH YOUR FARMATIVE ACCOUNT.**

**RECORD YOUR TARGET NUMBER IN YOUR  
QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE FOR FUTURE USE.**

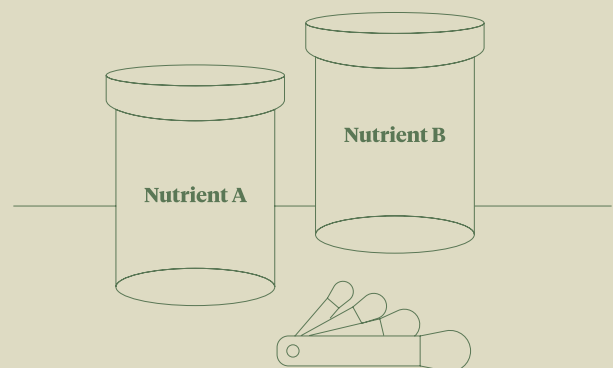
## ADDING NUTRIENTS

Add nutrients and pH through the left tank lid as this is the tank with the pump in it. The nutrients and pH adjusters will equalize faster and give you a more accurate reading moving forward.

Always add equal parts of Nutrient A and B. A 1:1 ratio of 1 tablespoon Nutrient A and 1 tablespoon of Nutrient B equals a rise in approximately 230 ppm.

With a fresh tank of water, we recommend starting with 3 tablespoons of Nutrient A and 3 tablespoons of Nutrient B.

Fill your measuring cup with 2 cups of water and add 3 tablespoons of Nutrient A. Stir until the nutrients are dissolved. Pour the nutrient mixture into the left tank (with the water pump).



Repeat process for Nutrient B. Fill your measuring cup with 2 cups of water and add 3 tablespoons of Nutrient B. Please note, Nutrient B will take longer to dissolve in the water mixture. Continue to stir until the nutrient is almost completely dissolved. Pour into the left tank.

Recheck the nutrient levels after a couple of hours and adjust as needed.



NOTE: DO NOT PUT THE NUTRIENTS DIRECTLY INTO THE FLEX FARM TANKS AS THEY WILL NOT FULLY DISSOLVE. ENSURE YOU ARE MIXING THE NUTRIENTS IN A SEPARATE CONTAINER. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO DISSOLVE NUTRIENT B.

If the TDS reading is within +/-100 of the Target Number recorded:



It is within range and no additional nutrients are necessary.

If the TDS reading is more than 100 ppm below the Target Number recorded:



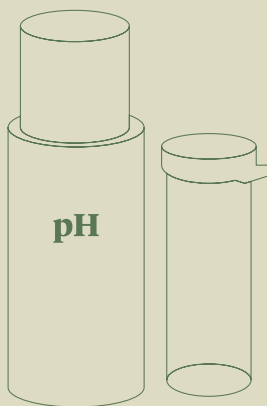
Continue to add equal parts of Nutrient A and Nutrient B in 1 tablespoon increments. 1 tablespoon each of Nutrient A and B approximately equals an increase of 230 ppm. Let your Flex Farm run for a few hours before taking a new TDS reading. Repeat until your TDS reading is within 100 ppm of your Target Number.

If the TDS reading is more than 100 ppm above the Target Number recorded:



Remove some of the water in the tank and refill with plain water. After running your Flex Farm for a few hours, take a new TDS reading. Repeat until your TDS reading is within 100 ppm of your Target Number.

## BALANCING PH



IF THE READING IS MORE THAN SLIGHTLY GREEN (TOWARD BLUE), ADJUST AS FOLLOWS:

Add 2 tablespoons of pH Down solution to the left Flex Farm tank. Check the pH again after 24 hours and a few times over the next couple of days, adjusting as needed until stabilized.

IF THE READING IS MORE RED, ADJUST AS FOLLOWS:

If your pH reading is more red we recommend removing water and adding fresh water to your Flex Farm. Check the pH again after a few hours, adjusting as needed.

NOTE: IF YOU ARE TRANSPLANTING, YOUR NUTRIENT AND PH LEVELS DO NOT NEED TO BE WITHIN THEIR IDEAL RANGES BEFORE YOU BEGIN. WE RECOMMEND COMPLETING YOUR INITIAL ADJUSTMENT AND TRANSPLANTING AT THE SAME TIME. CONTINUE TO MONITOR AND ADJUST OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

# Planting Seeds

## PLANTING

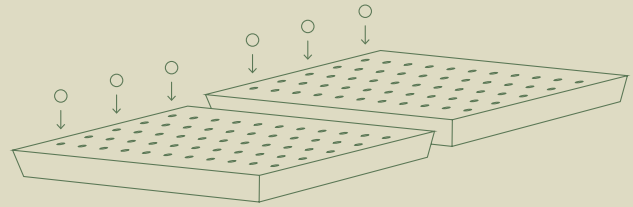
Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water.

Locate your rockwool flats, nursery tray and seeds. Rockwool creates an optimal environment for your plants roots as it has oxygen and moisture retention properties. It also provides the roots something to hold onto so the plants stay secure when planted in the Flex Farm.

By gently bending the rockwool flat, remove the number of cubes that you will not be planting. Each flat has 200 cubes.

For example, to plant 144 spaces you need 150 cubes. We recommend planting a few extra seeds in case some do not germinate.

Place the rockwool flat with the planting hole side up into the provided nursery tray. Completely saturate rockwool using cold water and let it sit for at least 5 minutes. Do not use hot water.



Without squeezing the rockwool, pour out any excess water.

To plant, place one pelleted seed per hole in the rockwool.

Cover your nursery tray with a clear covering (such as a plastic food storage bag, cling wrap or a humidity dome) and place it in the warmest area in your space. Seeds do not need light to sprout.

NOTE: USE PELLETTED SEEDS (SEEDS WITH A CLAY COATING) AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE. NOT ONLY ARE PELLETTED SEEDS EASIER TO HANDLE, THE CLAY COATING PREVENTS THE SEEDS FROM DRYING OUT.

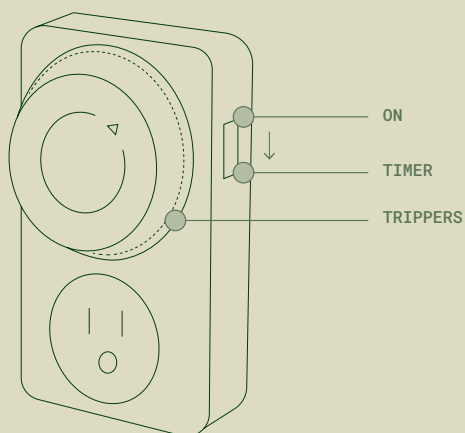
## SETTING THE LIGHT TIMER

Locate the light timer provided with your Flex Farm and slide the switch located on the side down to the TIMER position.

Set the timer to the current time by rotating the dial in the direction of the arrow until the triangular mark points to the present time.



NOTE: IF THE SWITCH IS IN THE "ON" POSITION, THE LIGHT TOWER WILL STAY ON CONTINUOUSLY INSTEAD OF TURNING OFF WHEN PLUGGED IN. ON THE TIMER BLACK IS PM & WHITE IS AM.



Program your timer to turn on for 18 hours per day (14 hour minimum). To program your timer, push in the black trippers situated around the dial to set the amount of time for the light tower to be on. Each tripper represents 15 minutes.

Example: If you would like your light tower to be on from 6:00 PM to 8:00 AM, push down the trippers situated between 6:00 PM and 8:00 AM.

Plug the light tower into the light timer before plugging the light timer into a grounded (three-prong) outlet. The light timer will turn the light tower on and off when the dial rotates.

## GERMINATION

Seeds need the proper temperature, moisture, air, and light conditions to germinate.

You will need to care for your seedlings until they are ready to be transplanted to your Flex Farm.

Fill a clean spray bottle with plain water, and spray your planted seeds 1 - 2 times daily until they sprout, which is about 2 days.

Once the seeds sprout, remove the plastic covering.

At this point, if plants are not yet growing in your Flex Farm, please go to the Transplanting section.

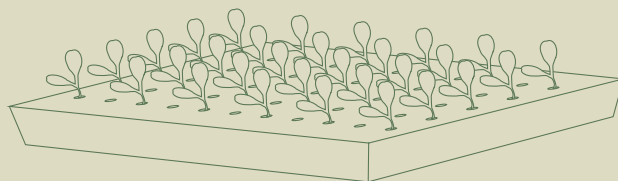
Your seedlings will now need light, nutrients, and water. If you have already balanced your Flex Farm's nutrient and pH levels, take one cup of water out of the Flex Farm and add it to the nursery tray below the rockwool. This is the easiest way to give your plants the nutrient water they need.

To give your seedlings light, you can place the nursery tray on the tank lids of the Flex Farm and use the light tower as your light source.

If you have access to a grow light, place the nursery tray underneath the light no more than 3-6 inches away from the plants.

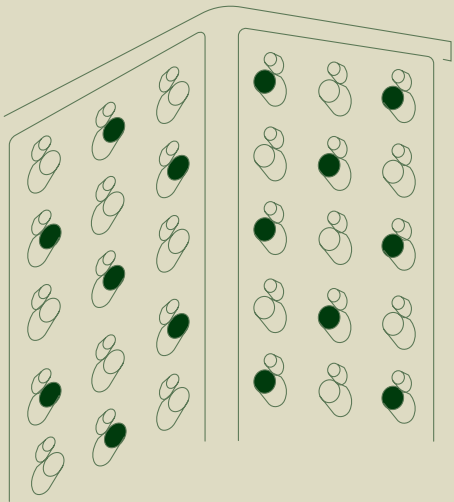
Water your plants with nutrient water each day. We recommend having approximately 1 cm of water in the nursery tray at all times to prevent the plants from drying out. Always pour water into the tray underneath the rockwool to ensure water is absorbed from the bottom up.

Your plants can remain in the nursery tray until you can't see much or any rockwool when looking down at the top of your plants. Or remember, you can always transplant as soon as you have green leaves above the rockwool hole.



**NOTE: IF YOUR PLANTS ARE STARTING TO LOOK LEGGY, THEY ARE NOT RECEIVING ENOUGH LIGHT. LEGGINESS IS WHEN THE PLANT HAS GROWN A VERY LONG STEM WITHOUT MATURE LEAVES. OFTEN, THEY WILL NOT STAND UP AND LEAN TO ONE SIDE. TRY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF HOURS YOUR GROW LIGHT IS ON OR SKIP TO THE TRANSPLANTING SECTION AND COMPLETE THE REMAINING STAGES OF SEEDLING GROWTH IN YOUR FLEX FARM.**

# Transplanting



You can transplant your seedlings when they have sprouted above the rockwool hole. This will help prevent them from being pinched off during transplant. Leave seedlings to grow in the nursery tray another day or two to mature if not.

Before transplanting, consider what seedlings you are putting into the Flex Farm. For lettuce and larger plants, we recommend planting in a grid pattern (every other plant space). Example pictured to the left. Use every plant space when planting taller, thinner plants like herbs.

**NOTE: WE RECOMMEND PLANTING HERBS IN THE TOP PANELS OF YOUR FLEX FARM. THIS PREVENTS THE ROOTS FROM CLOGGING THE BACK TUBING OF THE FLEX FARM AND DISRUPTING WATER FLOW.**



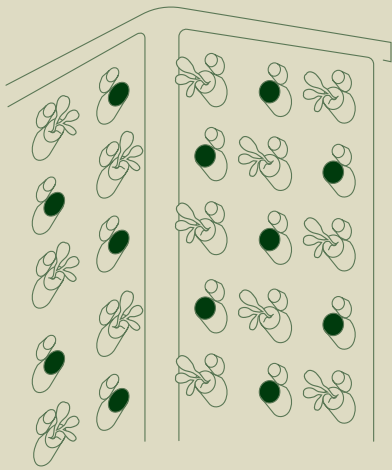
Before transplanting your seedlings, thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water.

Carefully separate an individual rockwool cube from the flat. You can do this by hand separating or using a tool such as scissors or a knife.

Insert the rockwool cube with your seedling into a Flex Farm plant space. Grip the edges of the rockwool cube and use a twisting motion as you insert the cube. When properly inserted, the top of the cube should be right below the rim of the plant space.

Repeat steps until you have planted all your seedlings.

Keep any leftover plants just in case any die during transplanting. Dead plants can be replaced with leftover seedlings.



Insert black round plugs into empty plant spaces. Doing this will significantly increase your yield and prevent water from splashing from your empty plant spaces.

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE A LOT OF LEFTOVER PLANTS, MAKE SURE TO PLANT FEWER SEEDS FOR YOUR NEXT CROP CYCLE. LEFTOVER PLANTS CAN ALSO BE PLANTED IN YOUR OUTDOOR GARDEN.

## STAY STOCKED UP

Keep your growing supplies stocked.  
Order supplies online through your Farmative account.





# Harvesting

There are several ways to harvest plants from your Flex Farm.

For leafy greens, such as lettuce, we recommend harvesting the whole plant. For most herbs, we recommend either harvesting the whole plant or using the “cut-and-come-again” method.

When harvesting, it’s important to observe proper food safety protocols. On Farmative, you can access a number of Food Safety resources to help guide you.

Most leafy green varieties are ready to harvest when their leaves start to intersect and you no longer see the white panel in the back. The lettuce seeds provided in your Supply Box typically take 21 - 28 days to mature when in the Flex Farm.

For herbs, we recommend reviewing the Herb Growing Guide available on Farmative to determine when different herb varieties are ready for harvest.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Before doing anything, thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water and apply food safety gloves.

Clean your tools. Make sure any bins being used for storing or transporting harvested food has been washed, rinsed and sanitized. Follow the same process for any scissors or tools you intend to use as well.

Wash any surfaces you plan to use during the harvest. Prepare a bin to discard roots and rockwool.

NOTE: WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND USING FOOD SAFETY GLOVES WHEN HANDLING HARVESTED PLANTS. IF YOU TOUCH ANYTHING OTHER THAN PLANTS WITH THE GLOVES (LIKE YOUR CELL PHONE) YOU WILL NEED TO RE-GLOVE BEFORE HANDLING PLANTS AGAIN.

To harvest, carefully pull the plant, roots and rockwool out of the plant space.

Using your hands, gently separate the roots and rockwool cube from the plant. Place the harvested plant on the table or directly in a bag or sterilized bin for food distribution. Place the roots and rockwool in a trash can.

Repeat until all plants have been harvested.

Once the whole Flex Farm has been harvested, immediately place your harvest in a refrigerated space. When properly stored, leafy green crops may last over 4 weeks.

NOTE: PLACE A PAPER TOWEL IN YOUR BIN OR BAG. DRY PRODUCE WILL LAST LONGER.

## POST-HARVEST CLEANING

Clean your Flex Farm using the steps in the Cleaning Section of this guide. Always check your tank for debris. Remove any debris as it will clog the water lines and disrupt water flow.

You can replant your Flex Farm as soon as it is clean. We recommend planting seeds about 5 days for lettuce, 7 days for herbs, before your harvest. This way, your new seedlings will be ready to transplant into your Flex Farm after harvesting.

## SECTION 3

# Flex Farm Maintenance

## Weekly Water Maintenance

\_\_\_\_\_ Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water before starting your weekly water maintenance.

\_\_\_\_\_ Always check your tank for debris. Remove any debris as it will clog the water lines and disrupt water flow.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check your drip line holes at the top of the Flex Farm to ensure water is properly flowing.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check the water level in your tanks. You should maintain your tanks at around half full when growing in the Flex Farm. It is normal for the right tank water level to be higher than the left.

\_\_\_\_\_ Test the pH of your Flex Farm water at least once per week. Adjust as needed following the instructions in this guide. It is not necessary to adjust pH if it is within +/- 0.5 pH of the target.

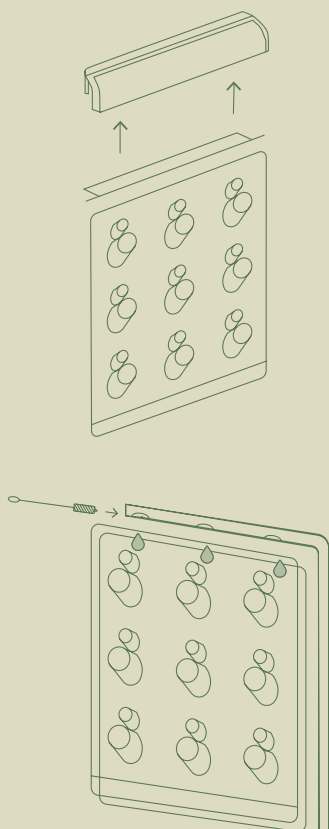
\_\_\_\_\_ Test the nutrient level in your Flex Farm at least once a week. Adjust as needed following the instructions in this guide. It is not necessary to adjust nutrients if it is within +/- 100 TDS of the target.

NOTE: TESTING YOUR PH AND NUTRIENT LEVELS MORE FREQUENTLY CAN IMPROVE YOUR RESULTS.

# Post-Harvest Cleaning

Follow the instructions in this section after every harvest to prepare your Flex Farm for the next crop.

NOTE: IF YOU ARE ROTATIONAL HARVESTING, I.E. PLANTING AND/OR HARVESTING SECTIONS OF YOUR FLEX FARM AT DIFFERENT GROW CYCLE INTERVALS, YOU ONLY NEED TO CLEAN THE ROOT CHAMBERS AND PANELS THAT WERE JUST HARVESTED.



Unplug the light tower and set it to the side, out of the way of the Flex Farm.

Remove top caps and use the bristle brush in your Grower Toolkit to clean any debris out of the holes in the drip lines.

It is recommended to start at the first drip line hole from the irrigation line and work your way to the front of the system with the bristle brush. The water flow will help push debris away from the holes that have been cleaned.

After cleaning drip line holes, flush each of the drip lines using the valves at the front of the Flex Farm.

Place the provided measuring cup or a bucket under the valve located at the end of each drip line.

Open one valve and flush for at least 5 seconds. Close and repeat on the other side.

Unplug the pump.

NOTE: A 3% HYDROGEN PEROXIDE SOLUTION CAN BE PURCHASED AT MOST DRUG OR GROCERY STORES.

To clean the panels, use a spray bottle or wash cloth to apply a 3% hydrogen peroxide solution. Wipe down with a cloth. Make sure to clean inside the plant spaces as well. This can be done utilizing a plant space brush.

To clean the root chambers, drip lines, and tank lids of the Flex Farm use the 3% hydrogen peroxide and a cloth, wipe away and discard any debris, such as dead leaves, remaining roots, algae and/or other plant matter.

Once you are done cleaning, check root chamber alignment, irrigation lines, and pump to ensure there is no disruption in water flow.

Check your water tanks for any large debris that might have fallen in and remove it.

At this point, if you need to refresh your water, refer to the Water Refresh Instructions.

Be sure to recheck your pH and nutrient levels prior to planting your next crop.

# Water Refresh Instructions

## INSTRUCTIONS

Follow the instructions in this section to refresh water in your Flex Farm. A full water refresh is recommended based on your base number TDS reading of plain water from your tap or sink. For example, if your base number is 220 we recommend you refresh your Flex Farm water every 1-2 months for optimal growth.

If you will not be running your Flex Farm for a period longer than 2 days it is recommended to drain the tanks as the nutrient water should always be circulating with the pump.

TDS	Month
0 - 100	5 - 6
100 - 200	3 - 4
200 +	1 - 2

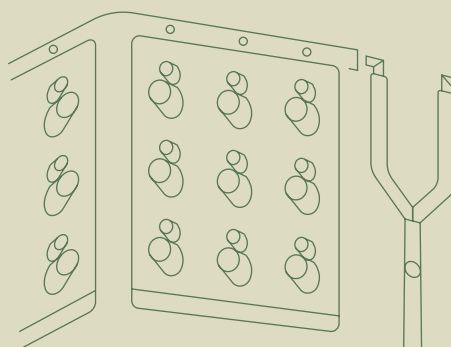
You can refresh your water during the middle of the growing cycle. The plants will not be harmed if the pump is turned off for the duration of the water refresh. However, plant health will be impacted if the pump is off for more than a few hours.

If you have a floor drain, the easiest way to drain your Flex Farm is to roll it to the floor drain and open the drainage valve connecting the tanks. You can also roll your Flex Farm outside to drain. Be sure to securely close the valve after draining.

One method of draining is through the irrigation line. First, unplug the pump and wait about 30 seconds for the water to stop flowing through the Flex Farm.

Detach the vertical irrigation line from the Y fitting at the back of the Flex Farm. Place the detached end of the vertical irrigation line into a deep bucket or sink.

Plug the pump back in and drain the water from the Flex Farm. Once the water falls below the pump inlet, unplug the pump and reattach the vertical irrigation line to the Y fitting.



A third method to drain is to place a bucket below the front right drip line drain valve and open the valve until the water level is below the pump inlet.

Drain the remaining water using the drain valve at the back of the tanks or a ShopVac.

**Close the drainage valve after the water is drained out of the tanks.**

Remove and clean the pump filter by running it under a sink to clear away material buildup.

Spray 3% hydrogen peroxide solution and wipe any remaining water and plant material in the tanks.

Refill water up to half full. Water should completely submerge the top of the pump.

Be sure to recheck your pH and nutrient levels prior to planting your next crop.

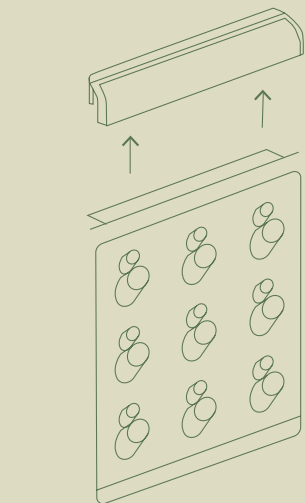
# Deep Clean and Shut Down

Follow the instructions in this section to deep clean your Flex Farm.

A deep clean is recommended when:

**Every 6 months OR there is significant build-up of plant matter in the Flex Farm.**

## INSTRUCTIONS

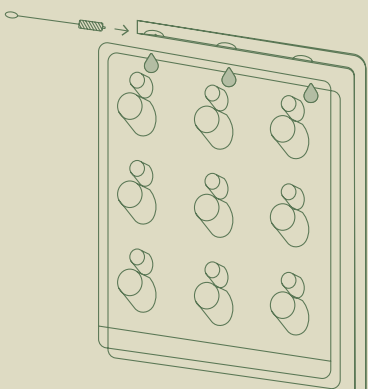


Prepare your space for cleaning. Place 3% hydrogen peroxide solution in a spray bottle. Have items to wipe down the Flex Farm system on hand such as cloths, towels, or paper towels. A bristle brush and soft scrub brush are also recommended.

Unplug the light tower and set it to the side, out of the way of the Flex Farm.

Remove top caps and use the bristle brush in your Grower Toolkit to clean any debris out of the holes in the drip lines.

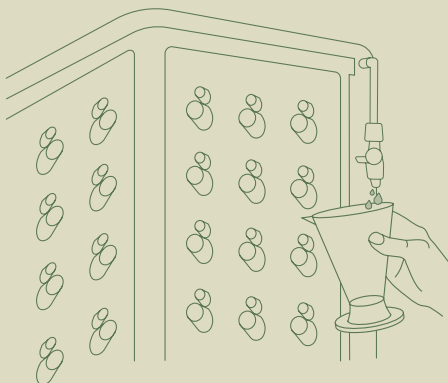
It is recommended to start at the first drip line hole from the irrigation line and work your way to the front of the system with the small bristle brush. The water flow will help push debris away from the holes that have been cleaned.



After cleaning drip line holes, purge each of the drip lines using the valves at the front of the Flex Farm.

Place the provided measuring cup or a bucket under the valve located at the end of each drip line.

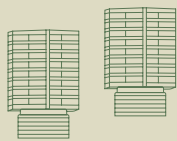
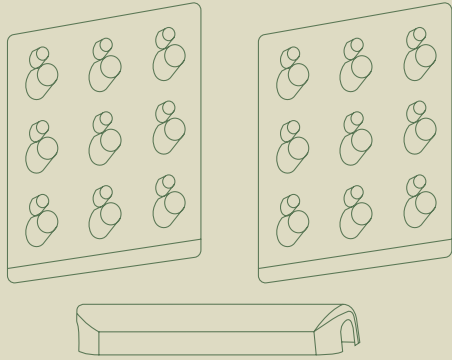
Open one valve and purge for at least 5 seconds. Close and repeat on the other side.



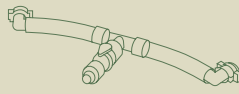
If you have a floor drain, the easiest way to drain your Flex Farm is to roll it to the floor drain and open the drainage valve on the back of the tanks. You can also roll your Flex Farm outside to drain. Be sure to securely close the valve after draining.



✓ PANELS & TOP CAPS



TANK SCREENS



DRAINAGE VALVE  
TUBING

Drain the remaining water using the drain valve at the back of the tanks or a ShopVac.

**Close the drain valve after the water is drained out of the tanks.**

Remove and clean the pump filter by running it under a sink to clear away material buildup.

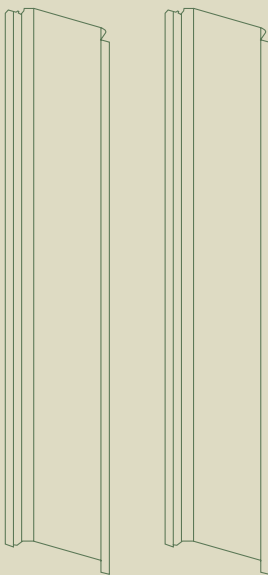
Unscrew and remove the tank screens from the left and right tanks. Clean by running under a sink to clear away material build up or soak in a bucket.

Remove the drainage valve tubing at the back of the tank. Clean in the sink by running water through the ends of the tubing or soak in a bucket. To reattach, following the instructions in the Assembly Manual.

Wipe any remaining water and plant material in the tanks. If you have a dishwasher available, run Flex Farm panels through the dishwasher at a heat not to exceed 181 degrees. Alternatively, soak panels for 15-20 minutes in a deep sink or tub, and use a soft scrub brush to get rid of any debris.

**CAUTION: THE MAX DISHWASHER TEMPERATURE IS 181 DEGREES. DO NOT EXCEED THIS TEMPERATURE. IT IS RECOMMENDED THE TEMPERATURE TO BE AT EXACTLY 181 DEGREES TO MEET FOOD SAFETY SANITATION REQUIREMENTS.**

✗ ROOT CHAMBERS



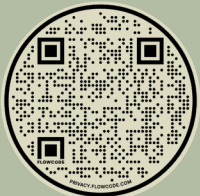
If you are not using a dishwasher, use the 3% hydrogen peroxide and a cloth to wipe away and discard any debris, such as dead leaves, remaining roots, algae and/or other plant matter on the root chambers, drip lines, and tank lids of the Flex Farm.

If necessary, you can clean the black panel plugs by soaking them in a bucket with the 3% hydrogen peroxide for 15-20 minutes. After soaking, rinse well with clean water. Once you have cleaned and dried all Flex Farm parts, you can reassemble for your next grow cycle.

Be sure to recheck your pH and nutrient levels prior to planting your next crop.

**CAUTION: ONLY THE PANELS AND TOP CAPS CAN GO THROUGH THE DISHWASHER. DO NOT PUT THE ROOT CHAMBERS INTO THE DISHWASHER.**

**NOTE: IF YOU ARE NOT RESTARTING YOUR FLEX FARM, THOROUGHLY DRY ALL FLEX FARM PARTS AND STORE THEM IN A CLEAN DRY PLACE, AWAY FROM DIRECT SUNLIGHT IF POSSIBLE.**



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