

Tubing Tips

Heavywall tubing needs the heat of the sun to unroll

When you receive a roll of ½" tubing or dripline, the tubing needs to be placed in the sun to relax for at least an hour before you try to unroll it. Otherwise it may kink. Water will not flow through a kink in the tubing.

Remove the tape holding the roll together and lay the loose coil of tubing in the sun on a lawn or other clean surface. The black surface of the tubing will absorb sunlight and warm and soften enough to permit you to slowly uncoil the tubing.

If the tubing resists uncoiling, leave it in the sun a while longer. The longer the tubing is exposed to the sun, the more it will relax and conform to the shape of the ground. Until the tubing relaxes completely, you may have to use weight or shepherd stakes (OE4) to hold it in place.

If the tubing does kink, simply squeeze the tubing back to its round shape with your fingers. It's easiest to correct a kink when the tubing has warmed in the sun.

Kinking does not harm the tubing

Your new tubing is very high quality and kinking does not weaken the tubing. We have tested the tubing by folding a piece of tubing over repeatedly 200 times with no damage to the tubing. Heavywall tubing and dripline can be bent into a gentle curve of about a two-foot radius but use an elbow connector (FB8 or FC14) to make a 90 degree turn.

Keeping it clean

Temporarily cover the ends of the tubing with masking or electrical tape if there is a chance of dirt getting into the ends of the tubing as you install it. Once the tubing is in place, attach it to the faucet assembly, open the end and run the water to flush any dirt or plastic bits. After you have added all drippers and connections to the tubing, again open the end and flush the tubing. At the beginning and end of each planting season, open the end of the tubing and flush until the water runs clear.

Barbed Connectors

Barbed connectors fit tightly in the tubing. If the tubing is cold and the connector is difficult to push into the end of the tubing, pour hot water over the end of the tubing to warm it. We use a thermos to hold the hot water or we dip the end of the tubing into a garden bucket full of hot water to make it easy to insert the connector.

Good Gardening and Best Wishes from the staff at Northern Garden Supply!!