



Joinery Construction Guide



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Designing Joinery With Plants In Mind

Designing joinery for indoor plants requires more than simply allowing space. Without the right considerations, moisture can quickly become an issue – leading to damage that is difficult and costly to resolve once installed.

Plant friendly joinery is designed to manage this from the outset. From internal protection and containment through to access and airflow, every detail plays a role in safeguarding the integrity of the build while supporting healthy, long term plant growth.

At the same time, greenery should feel like a natural extension of the space. When thoughtfully integrated, it enhances the overall design, softens built environments and creates a more inviting, balanced atmosphere.

With biophilic design continuing to shape commercial interiors, getting this balance right has never been more important. Well designed joinery ensures greenery is not only visually seamless, but practical, maintainable and built to last.

Key Considerations For Plant Friendly Joinery

Getting the details right at this stage makes all the difference. The following considerations guide you on how joinery can be designed to properly accommodate indoor planting.

Internal Protection & Water Containment

Joinery housing live plants should be fully sealed and moisture resistant, with concealed drip trays or liners to capture excess water. Proper protection is essential to prevent damage and preserve surrounding finishes over time.

Clearance, Fit & Airflow

Allow adequate clearance around pots for placement, removal and airflow. Tight tolerances can restrict plant health and make ongoing maintenance more difficult.

Access & Maintainability

Live plants require regular care. Joinery should be designed to allow easy access for watering, pruning and replacement without disrupting the surrounding space. Where access is challenging, artificial plants may be the best option.

Removable Elements

Incorporating removable panels or top plates can simplify both installation and ongoing maintenance, providing flexibility as plant requirements change.

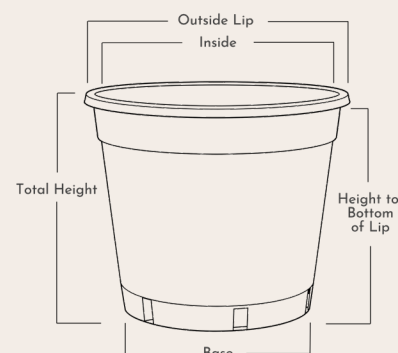
Lighting & Plant Suitability

Available light will influence plant selection and long term success. Placement should align with appropriate lighting conditions for the chosen greenery. Not all spaces are conducive to live plants.



Grow Pot Specifications

When designing joinery, it's important to consider what sized plants they are intended to hold. **This is crucial when live plants are being used as they come in standard sized grow pots.** The table below provides specifications for the most widely used grow pots.



Grow Pot Size	Outside Lip Diameter	Inside Diameter	Base Diameter	Total Height	Height to Bottom of Lip	Cut-Out Size	Minimum Space between Live Plants
200mm	205mm	192mm	160mm	190mm	182mm	197mm	100mm
250mm	256mm	246mm	191mm	230mm	222mm	246mm	150mm
300mm	320mm	280mm	235mm	270mm	240mm	290mm	250mm
400mm	420mm	375mm	300mm	320mm	290mm	385mm	450mm

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Allow 30-40mm additional height in Open Planters or Under Mulch Plates when using live plants

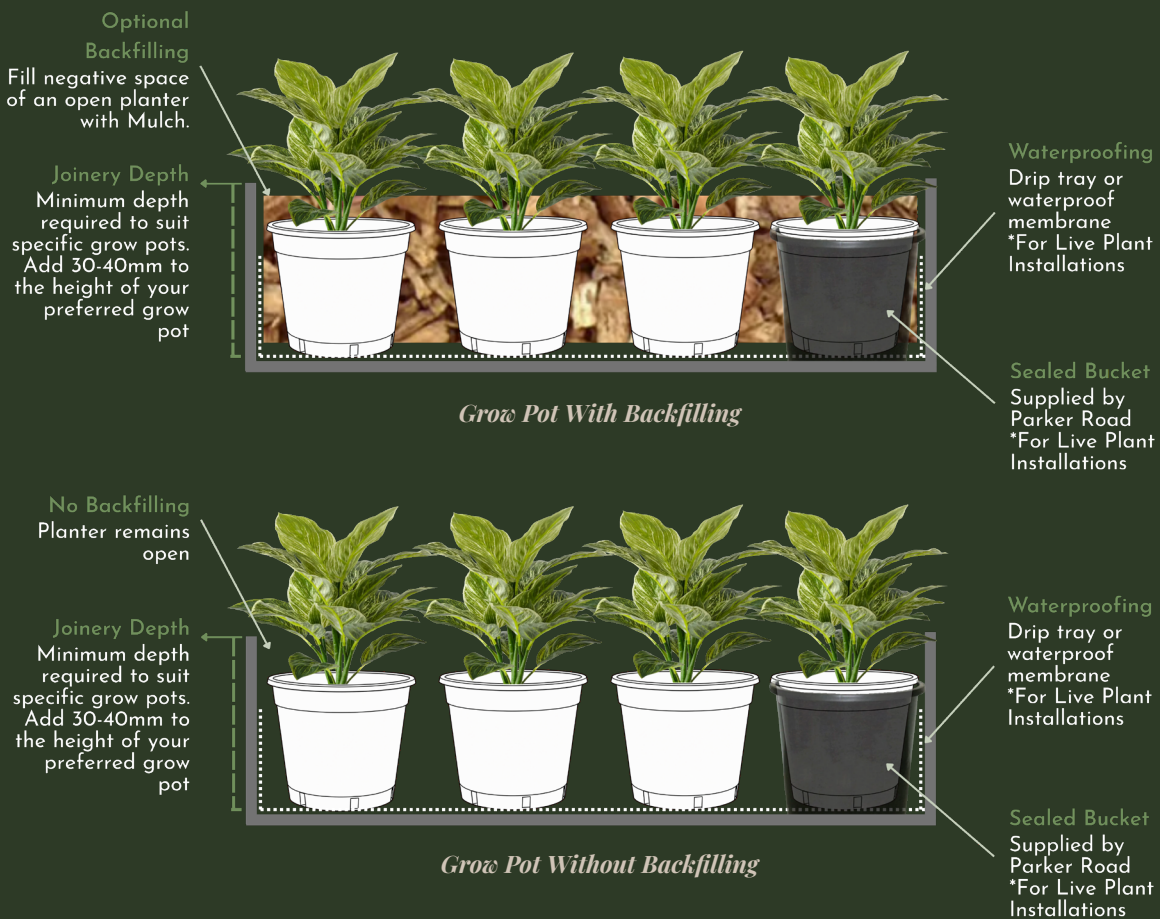
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This spacing will create a very dense garden, with the foliage of neighbouring plants likely touching. If you want more negative space between plants, increase this space to suit your purpose and to accommodate the species of plants you require.

Open Planter Boxes – Living Or Artificial Plants

Plants in Grow Pots - Living or Artificial Plants

Our living and artificial plants are supplied in plastic grow pots. Refer to our Grow Pot Specifications for sizing information on our most commonly used pots.

The space between pots can be backfilled with mulch or left open, depending on your project requirements.



Open Planter Boxes – Artificial Plants

Complete Garden Bed

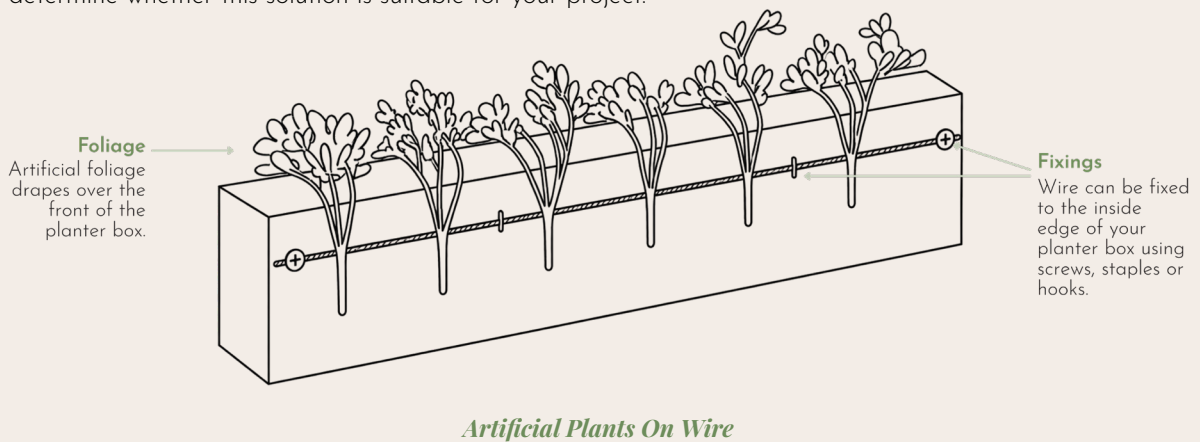
Our Complete Garden Bed consists of a custom-cut polystyrene base fitted within the planter, with plant stems installed into the surface and finished with your choice of topping. As the planter is completely filled, there is no space for rubbish or debris to collect. This solution allows for any planting density, from sparse and architectural to full and lush, making it a popular choice for public spaces and planters positioned below eye level.

Ideal planter depth: 120-180mm



Plants on Wire - Overhead Planters

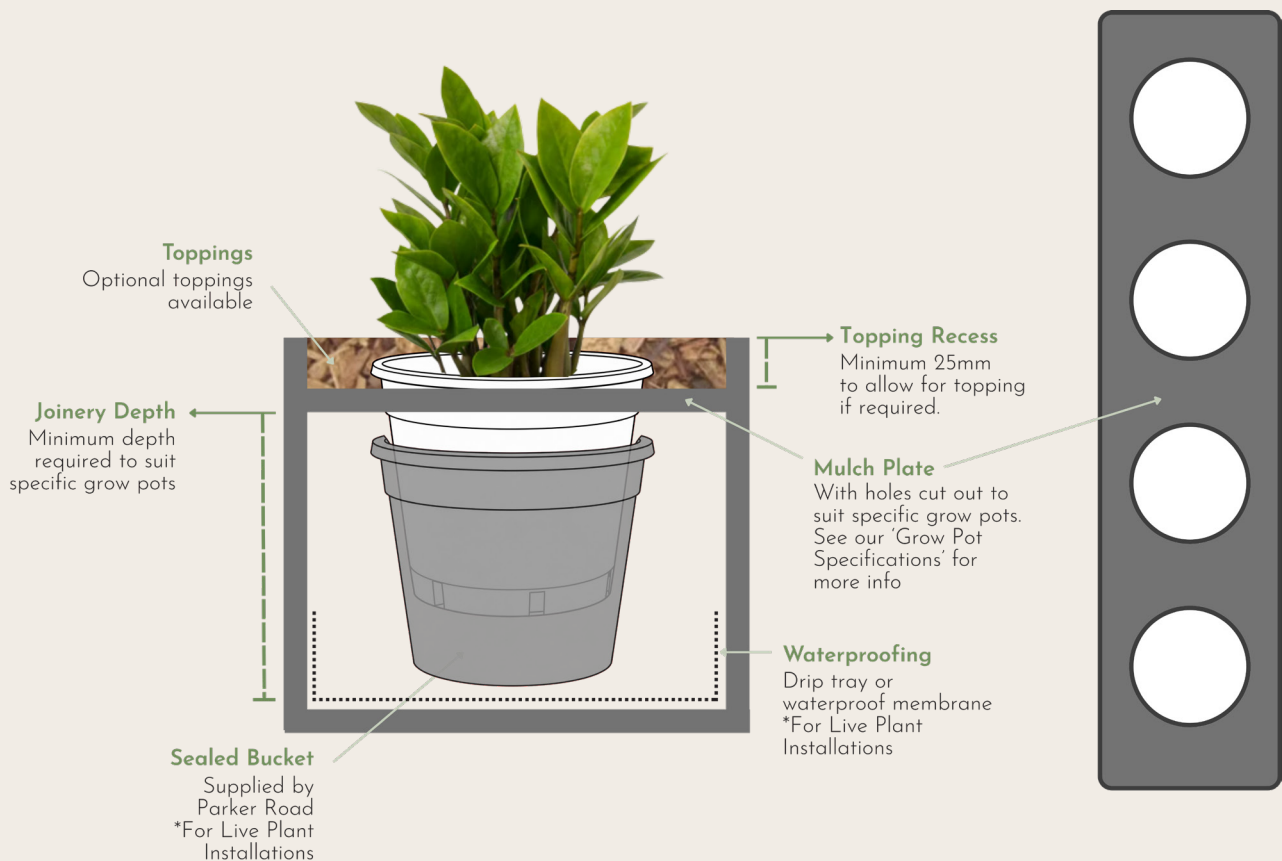
Developed by the Parker Road team, this installation method is designed for hanging plants in overhead planters where the interior of the planter is not visible. Chat with our team to determine whether this solution is suitable for your project.



Planters With Mulch Plates – Living or Artificial Plants

Plants in Grow Pots

Your joiner can build a mulch plate with cut-outs to suit standard grow pot sizes. This can be left bare or finished with your preferred topping. Please let us know if the mulch plates are removable, as this helps us determine the most suitable planting method.



Planters With Mulch Plate

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1** Whoops! I have had the joinery made before consulting this comprehensive guide and now I'm panicking that it is not suitable. What should I do?

Make yourself a cup of herbal tea and relax. We have a few tricks up our sleeve and can often find a solution. Get in touch with our team and we'll see what we can do.

- 2** Our planter boxes are not waterproofed but we really want to use live plants. Is that still possible?

It's not the ideal situation. While we do our absolute best to keep water within the sealed buckets, spills do happen. If waterproofing cannot be retrofitted and artificial plants are not an option, live plants may still be used at your own risk. In these circumstances, Parker Road cannot be held responsible for any water damage that may occur.

- 3** We know we want plants, but we're not really sure how many or what size to use. We're not even sure if we want real or artificial. Can you help?

Absolutely. Our team can provide as much or as little guidance as you need, from concept stage through to completion. We can help determine the right plant quantities, sizes and styles for your space, and advise whether living or artificial plants are the best fit. We also offer starter packages to simplify the process and can arrange a site visit if required.

- 4** Our space doesn't have planter boxes but we really want to bring some life into it. Are we doomed to working in a lifeless office?

We would never leave you to spend your days in an office without greenery! Our designers can source decorative pots and planters that work seamlessly within your space. We look beyond standard, off the shelf options, selecting pieces that complement and enhance the overall aesthetic.

- 5** There is not much room in our budget to buy plants. What are our options?

Our Live Plant Hire and Maintenance program starts from less than \$1 per plant, per week, making it an affordable way to bring plants into your space.

- 6** When is the best time to have plants installed?

We're glad you asked! We often refer to our greenery as the "garnish" of a space. As such, it should be one of the final elements installed, ideally just before your team moves in.

- 7** Is there anything else we need to consider if we want live plants?

Yes! Water access and lighting are two big ones. A cold water source needs to be easily accessible for our plant technicians. Plants also need adequate light to thrive. If you're unsure whether your space has enough, let us know and we can arrange a site visit to assess.