

# Indoor Growing *Maintenance Checklist*



Start with a full reservoir and a ratio of 20ml of Mineral Blend A and 20ml of Mineral Blend B for every gallon of water. For example, if you are growing with Tower Garden FLEX, fill the reservoir with water (approx. 20 gallons) and add 400ml of Mineral Blend A and 400ml of Mineral Blend B.

## EVERY WEEK

### Check water level and add water and nutrients, if needed.

- Keep it simple. If the reservoir water level is not at least half full, add 5 gallons of water + 100ml of **Mineral Blend A** + 100ml of **Mineral Blend B**.
- *Note:* Whenever water is added to your indoor Tower Garden, **Mineral Blend A** and **Mineral Blend B** also need to be added (*approximately 20ml of A and 20ml of B for every gallon*).

### Check pH level with test kit.

- Obtain 5ml of the water solution from the reservoir.
- Add 5 drops of **pH indicator (red)** to the 5ml water sample.
- Compare water color with chart to determine pH.
- If the pH is above 7.0, add the **pH- Acid Solution** to the reservoir.
  - Add 5-6 capfuls if the pH is 7.5.
  - Add 6-7 capfuls if the pH is 8.0.
  - Add 7-8 capfuls if the pH is 8.5.
  - Add 8-9 capfuls if the pH is 9.0.
- If the pH is below 5.5, add the **pH+ Base Solution** to the reservoir.
  - Add 6-7 capfuls if the pH is 5.0.
  - Add 7-8 capfuls if the pH is 4.5.

*It is not necessary to retest the pH on the same day. Simply follow the directions above and re-check in one week. Do not adjust the pH level more than once a week. When in doubt, leave it be.*

### Remove any dead, dried leaves.

- Check the floor for any dead, dried plant material and clean up the area.

### Check all plants.

- If there are seedlings that are not growing well, **consider replanting** with new seeds.
- Follow the planting directions on the Training Notes to replant with new seeds and a new rockwool cube. Dispose of old rockwool and plant material.

### Use a wet paper towel or sponge to wipe clean the seams between the Tower segments and the reservoir lid.

## EVERY 2-3 WEEKS (after plants reach a large size)

- Detach the pump inside the reservoir and open it. Trim roots that are on top or inside of the pump.
- Once plants reach mature sizes, it's important to **harvest regularly**. For example, if your greens (spinach, lettuce, Bok choy, etc.) start flowering, or what's called "bolting," it is past harvest time. Harvest ASAP and cut flowers of the plant to ensure tasty harvests, as greens become more bitter after flowering.
  - **When an older plant is no longer thriving**, simply remove the plant by grabbing the lip of the net pot and lifting upward. After the net pot and entire plant and roots are removed, use a few fingers to swipe the inside of the Tower segment to be sure all old, dead root materials are removed.
- Replant with a new seedling. Net pots may be used for up to a year before needing to be replaced.

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## EVERY 4-5 MONTHS

Check the holes in the Shower Cap (uppermost segment) of the Tower to ensure they are clear of debris. You will need to remove the LED Indoor Grow Lights to do this.

## EVERY 5-6 MONTHS

- Disassemble all Tower segments and remove plant debris. Fill the reservoir with water and 2-3 gallons of vinegar and **soak all parts for 24-48 hours**. If plant debris and mineral deposits do not easily wipe off with a sponge, add more vinegar and soak for an additional 24-48 hours. For tougher stains, 100% Pure Food Grade Citric Acid may be used (1 cup/Tower). Rinse parts well with water. It is easiest to do this outdoors.
- Order new rockwool cubes and planting pots as needed. Replant the entire garden.
- After every total cleaning (or when you are just starting with your Tower), always fill the reservoir until the water is 2-3 inches from the hole where the pump cord exits the reservoir. Then follow the directions at the top to add appropriate amounts of Mineral Blend A and Mineral Blend B.