Polythene Information Sheet

Introduction

Polythene is a flexible membrane, which is used to create a micro-climate in which plants grow better than they would if they were unprotected. Polytunnels not only allow you to grow crops which are from a more temperate climate, but also to grow crops earlier in the year, and later in the year, so lengthening the growing season.

Modern polythene films are extruded and are made up from 3 layers with different fillers in each layer. This is one of the reasons they are incredibly strong and can often be stretched more than 500% before they break.

We are committed to providing the highest standard of product and service to our customers. We will continue to invest in the latest technology and use materials best suited to meet the needs of the grower.

Our Quality Policy is to aim to deliver defect free products and services that conform, every time, to the requirements agreed with our customers.

Guarantee

The polythene or net cover supplied is guaranteed for 7 years against breaking down through exposure to sunlight. However, if it is correctly applied to the structure, it is not uncommon to get 10 or even 12 years out of a cover. In the unlikely event that you have been supplied a defective cover we will give you another cover completely free if it fails in the first year. The only manufacturing defect however where this is likely to happen is where the fold / seam splits. However, you are not covered if the fold / seam splits and the cover is not tight. In the event of the premature failure, the following discounts will be given on the purchase of a replacement cover:

Failure in ...	Replacement discount
1st year	**100%**
2nd year	**85%**
3rd year	**70%**
4th year	**55%**
5th year	**40%**
6th year	**25%**
7th year	**10%**

To register a claim, contact the supplier from whom the cover was purchased and have the following information available:

- Type of cover (ie, SuperTherm, White or Net)
- Date cover was purchased
- Date cover was installed
- Size of cover (width and length)
- Date when problem was noticed
- Invoice number
- Description of the problem
- You will also be required to provide a written letter and photograph(s) of the fault.

Recommendations & Conditions (Polythene)

The way in which polytunnel films are handled, installed and looked after, can greatly influence the lifetime of the film and its effectiveness in use. The following gives recommendations of use, and factors, which will limit the life of the polytunnel film and therefore the extent of our guarantee.

Prior to fitting the polytunnel film, it should be stored away from heat and light - preferably indoors, in the original wrapping. If outside, cover the polythene with an opaque heat reflecting tarpaulin. Film should be used within 12 months of purchase.

Heaters must be placed so that hot air is directed away from the film.

The metal structure must be insulated from the film with good quality anti-hot spot tape. The lifetime of anti-hot spot tape is not likely to be more than ten years, so new tape will be needed for the second or third cladding. Old tape may have breaks in the foam or in the polyester facing, and this should certainly be replaced.

Avoid excessive use of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, fertilisers, etc. Avoid chemicals coming into direct contact with the film, for example by spray drift. Agrochemicals can interact with the UV stabilising systems and deactivate them with the risk of premature failure. Chemicals containing sulphur or chlorine have been found to be the most harmful in this respect.

Ensure that structures are free from corrosion, as this will adversely affect the life of the film. Iron contamination from rusted structures acts as a photo-degradation promoter. In the event of failure, evidence of high levels of sulphur, chlorine or iron will invalidate the guarantee.

It is regretted that it is not possible to give compensation for consequential claims.

Polythene Care

A cleaning agent called Algon is ideal for cleaning covers. Repairing holes in the tunnel can be done with repair tape.

Both are available from First Tunnels.