SHELTER AND GREENHOUSE EQUIPMENT PACKS

Equipment packs help control and manage the interior environment of many shelter types. When used in greenhouses, equipment packs improve growing conditions and help lengthen the growing season. For other shelters, the fans, heaters, thermostats, and vents included in an equipment pack all help control temperature and moisture and improve air quality.

Whether an equipment pack was included with or purchased as an addition to your shelter or greenhouse, equipment packs help achieve the results and maintain the conditions you want all year long.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

"Where should I install the fans for my shelter?" "At what end of the greenhouse are shutters installed?" "Are circulation fans attached to the end wall?" With feedback from customers like you, our support team has provided answers to these and other frequently-asked equipment pack questions.

Our product support team estimates that over 90% of customer questions about equipment packs are answered within these pages.

GETTING STARTED

Many factors must be considered before you install the items contained in any equipment pack. The following information provides suggestions for the placement and installation of accessories.

Read and follow all instructions supplied with each accessory (if provided) and follow all building codes specific to your region.

If you do not know how to properly install these items, obtain the services of a professional who is familiar with the installation and use of similar items and related equipment. Equipment packs are designed according to building square footage only. Climate, growing zones, shelter use, and other factors must be considered when selecting, installing, and using fans, heaters, and vents.

When in doubt, consult a professional for answers to questions that are beyond the scope of this document.

In addition to other sources, greenhouse information is found on the Internet or at your local extension office.

ATTENTION: To prevent personal injury or damage to greenhouse and shelter contents, always consult the services of an experienced professional before installing and using the items contained within these equipment packs.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Fans and Motors

Over heating due to excessive dirt, overloading, poor ventilation could ignite combustible materials. Provide plenty of ventilation for motors and keep them clean.

- Maintain a minimum clearance of 18 inches between fans and motors and any combustible material.
- Ensure that fans are wired by a qualified electrician.
- Inspection of fans and motors must be part of routine maintenance.
- Check voltage and amperage to verify that it corresponds to what is stamped on the motor nameplate.
- Do not install fans or other electrical devices where water from automatic sprinkler systems will shower the motors or get pulled through the fan.

Thermostats

The placement and position of thermostats within a shelter depends on the equipment that the thermostat controls and for greenhouses, the plants that are grown. Always consult the services of a professional familiar with how you intend to use your greenhouse or shelter.

- All wiring must be completed by a licensed electrician and according to local building codes.
- Consult a professional familiar with thermostats, the installation of thermostats, and the equipment that thermostats control to ensure that these are properly wired.

General Information: Greenhouse and Shelter Equipment Packs
Equipment Pack Safety Information

Heaters

Always follow the installation instructions that shipped with the heater.

- Combustion type heaters must have adequate clearance from combustible materials as directed in their installation manuals.
- Portable heaters often do not contain safety devices that prevent overheating and should not be left unattended.
- All heating units must be well supported. The supports should be designed to eliminate any excess vibration or stress regarding the shelter frame.
- Some heaters require venting to the outside.
- Gas piping and connections to all heating equipment should comply with local codes and manufacturer requirements. **All gas heaters must be installed by a qualified installation and service agency.**

Ventilation Fans

- Fans and shelter size determine the number of fans required. Adequate fans should be used to provide a spacing of not more than 25 feet along the exhaust side of the greenhouse.
- When possible, the fans should be located on the downwind side of the shelter. If the fans must be located on the windward side, the ventilation rate should be increased at least 10 percent, and fans with at least ¾ HP (or larger) motors should be used.
- The fan should have at least 1-1/2 times the diameter of clear space between their discharge opening and the nearest obstruction, such as a building wall.
- Fan blades should be guarded properly or installed in a location that prevents people or animals from touching any moving parts.
- When fans face fans of adjacent and separate greenhouses or shelters within 15 feet of each other, they should be offset from each other so the exhausting air from one fan will not blow directly against that of another fan.

ADDITIONAL FRAMING FOR ACCESSORIES

Depending on the shelter, it may be necessary to alter the framing to properly install the components of an equipment pack. Consulting the diagrams in this document and the frame assembly instructions for the shelter will help you anticipate the installation of equipment pack components.

Determining the locations of specific equipment pack components **before** you complete the assembly of your shelter saves time and can prevent delays in construction.

To prevent injury and property damage, always consult a construction professional **before** altering the design of a structure or adding framing for accessories. All customer-supplied materials and framing must be adequate to support the weight of the accessory and the forces resulting from the operation of that accessory.

**NOTE:** If the equipment pack is purchased to use in an existing greenhouse or shelter, ask your sales representative about additional frame materials and suggestions.

GENERAL NOTE

The information that follows suggests possible locations of the various equipment pack components based only on the size of the shelter or greenhouse. Although size is one factor to consider **before** installing the components, additional important factors must also be considered.

The following list will help you better prepare for the installation of the equipment pack components. Consider these and additional factors specific to your building and region **before** you install the equipment pack components:

- Building or greenhouse contents
- Building design and cover
- Regional factors
- Growing season
- Local and regional building and usage codes
- Adjacent buildings and businesses
- Overall use of the building or greenhouse
- Other

Consult a qualified professional for answers to questions related to the above factors or other factors not listed.
Placement of Accessories

Below are suggested locations for equipment packs based on the square footage of a greenhouse or shelter.

**Small Equipment Pack:**
Ideal for shelters with 42-100 square feet.

**ATTENTION:** It may be necessary to add frame members or change the locations of frame members when adding an equipment pack to an existing greenhouse or shelter.

**Medium Equipment Pack:**
Ideal for greenhouses and shelters with 100-200 square feet.

**ATTENTION:** Consider the door position and door type when mounting components such as fans and vents. Do not position components in areas that will become blocked when doors are open.

**Large Equipment Pack:**
Ideal for greenhouses or shelters with 200-300 square feet.

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### Accessory Key

- Air Circulation Fan
- Dual Voltage Thermostat
- Electric Heater
- Blue Flame Heater (Front and Back View)
- Blue Flame Heater w/ Control Blower (Front and Back View)
- Direct Vent Heater
- Direct Vent Heater w/ Blower Kit (Front and Back View)
- Motorized Intake Shutter
- Exhaust Fan w/ Shutter
- 2-Tiered Cedar Bench
Placement of Accessories

Below are suggested locations for equipment packs based on the square footage of a greenhouse or shelter.

**ATTENTION:** It may be necessary to add frame members or change the locations of frame members when adding an equipment pack to an existing greenhouse or shelter.

Extra Large Equipment Pack:
Ideal for shelters and greenhouses with 300-400 square feet, or within any zone where additional heating or cooling is required.

Jumbo Equipment Pack:
Ideal for shelters and greenhouses with 400-700 square feet, or within any zone where additional heating or cooling is required.

**ATTENTION:** Reinforce end wall framing as needed to support additional components and the forces produced by those components during operation.

Consult a professional contractor for help if needed.

**Accessory Key**

- Air Circulation Fan
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- Blue Flame Heater (Front and Back View)
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Equipment Pack Installation Information

Intake Shutter Installation

For proper ventilation, intake shutters are placed on the end of the shelter opposite the exhaust fans.

The shutters may be equipped with a thermostat to automate the louvers to open when ventilation is necessary.

Shutters can be fitted into a wall opening from the inside or over an opening on the outside.

The drawing shows one example of the intake shutter and heater placement for a shelter. View shown above is from inside the shelter.

The shutter kits are easy to assemble and install. Follow the installation steps included with the shutters.

NOTE: Verify that the shutters will not be obstructed when operating.

1. Frame an opening in the shelter frame for the shutter. (If end wall panel is film or polycarbonate, you must cut through the material.) Do not remove any critical frame structure. The shutter must be properly located for best results.

2. With lag bolts for wooden frames or nut, bolt, and lock washers for steel frames, secure the shutter using the mounting holes provided in each corner of the shutter.

3. Seal the end panel around the shutter with weather stripping or sealant if desired. (Materials to seal the end panel must be supplied by the customer.)

4. Wire the fan. Electrical wiring must be completed by a licensed electrician. Follow all local building codes.

NOTE: Mounting, framing, and sealing materials are not included with the fan; these are supplied by customer.

Exhaust Fan Installation

A sturdy, framed wall opening should be prepared and sized in advance for your exhaust fan. The framing structure must be strong enough to secure the fan weight and the forces created by the fan when in use.

Ideal location for exhaust fan is opposite of the door and as close to the peak of the greenhouse as possible. View is from outside the shelter.

NOTE: Verify that the louvers (if applicable) will not be obstructed when the fan is operating.

1. Frame an opening in the shelter frame for the fan. (If end wall panel is film or polycarbonate, you must cut through the material.) Do not remove any critical frame structure. The fan must be properly located for best results.

2. With lag bolts for wooden frames or nut, bolt, and lock washers for steel frames, secure the fan using the mounting holes provided in each corner of the fan.

3. Seal the end panel around the fan with weather stripping or sealant if desired. (Materials to seal the end panel must be supplied by the customer.)

4. Wire the fan. Electrical wiring must be completed by a licensed electrician. Follow all local building codes.

NOTE: Mounting, framing, and sealing materials are not included with the fan; these are supplied by customer.
Heater Installation

When possible, install the heater out of reach of people. The direction of air flow should not be restricted by machinery, beams, etc., and the air flow should move along exposed walls, rather than blowing directly at them.

When more than one heater is used in an area, the heaters should be arranged so that the air discharge of each heater supports the air flow of the others to provide best circulation of warm air.

All heaters must be installed by a licensed technician. Read all instructions included with your heater.

The information below describes one way to install a heater. Follow the installation steps included with the heater. View is from inside the shelter.

1. Frame an opening in the shelter frame for the heater if needed. Do not remove any critical frame structure. Consult the heater installation instructions for proper installation requirements.

Some heaters may not require a vent to the outside. Consult the installation instructions for that heater.

2. With lag bolts for wooden frames or nut, bolt and lock washers for steel frames, secure the heater to the frame.

NOTE: Mounting and framing materials are not included with the fan; these are supplied by customer. In some instances, you must construct a proper support for the heater. Frame structures of some shelters may not support the weight of a heater. Contact a professional contractor if needed to properly install the unit.

Circulating Fan Installation

When the fan is used as a circulation fan and suspended overhead, the fan must be mounted to remain rigid and not allowed to swing. The hangers or support system should be attached to the building structure and made of material strong enough to support the fan weight and to keep the fan in place.

1. Choose your fan location so there is a minimum of five (5) feet of unrestricted air flow to the back side of the fan.

2. If the fan has a mounting bracket, mount the fan to the building structure so that the fan remains rigid. Use the hardware included with the fan. (Some fans may not include additional hardware.)

3. When the fan is suspended using chain, wires, straps, etc., feed the chains through the top of the fan in two locations to prevent the fan from “swinging” excessively.

NOTE: The motor wiring should be secured to the fan in a manner that will not allow the wiring to be pulled into the fan blades. Consult a professional electrician if needed.

Thermostat Installation

In greenhouses, install the thermostat to sense plant temperature. For other shelters, install thermostats in locations away from the direct heat of the heater or away from uninsulated walls.

To get the desired temperature, thermostats should be located at plant height near the center of the growing area where they are not influenced by drafts or sidewall cooling.

Install thermostat so that it can be raised or lowered for different crops.

Two Thermostats: It is best if both thermostats are located together and protected from direct contact with sunlight and water. Mount the thermostat(s) to a piece of wood with a top.

Connect one thermostat to your exhaust fan and the other to your motorized shutter. Set the motorized shutter thermostat 6° cooler than the exhaust fan so it is open when the fan turns on.

All wiring should be completed by a licensed electrician.
This page is reserved for customer notes.