

955 Benton Ave., Winslow, ME 04901 • Phone: 1-877-564-6697 • Fax: 1-800-738-6314
Email: service@johnnyseeds.com • Web Site: Johnnyseeds.com

Spacer Blocks allow you to achieve the benefits of double-layered plastic without the use of electricity or noisy blowers. They can be installed right over the existing plastic of your growing structure, as long as the plastic is in good condition. Many styles and shapes of structures can benefit from the addition of spacer blocks, including the Quonset or Gothic shape that can be made from one of Johnny's Quick Hoops™ benders. However, tall structures may be limited by the ability to effectively install the spacer blocks. The separation of the two layers will greatly improve the thermal properties of your structure by creating an insulating dead-air space. The increased R-value and light diffusion offered by two layers of plastic will help to improve the quality and yield of your crops.



Materials Included:

- Spacer blocks
- Tie wraps

Two tie wraps are included for each one spacer block.

Additional Materials:

- One or two ladders, depending on the height of the structure
- Rope
- Measuring tape
- Screwdriver
- 8-foot long 2x4
- Aerial lift, in the case of larger structures

Preparation:

1. Before the spacer blocks can be attached, the first layer of plastic needs to be installed on your structure. Make sure you have a plan for how you will be attaching the second layer. A poly latch system with preformed stainless steel wire interlocked over the plastic into a poly latch channel has been used with great success in our trials.
2. Because plastic expands and contracts slightly with temperature changes, it is important to secure the second layer of plastic on a sunny day with temperatures around 70°F/21°C. Further, very little to no wind is best for applying plastic. If this is not possible, the plastic can be tightened at a different time when the weather is more ideal.

3. It is important to get the spacer blocks properly distributed to ensure you reap the greatest benefit and longest lasting return from your investment. The end walls will have no spacer blocks, in order to leave room for attaching the plastic. If the spacing doesn't work out perfectly, and some spacer blocks need to be placed closer together, spacing them closer together at the peak will help prevent snow and water from collecting between the blocks.

See last page for more spacing information.

Installation:

1. Two people are needed for installation: one positioned on the inside of the structure and the second assisting from outside.



2. While the spacer blocks are held in place, puncture holes with a screwdriver for the tie wraps and feed the tie wraps through from the inside.

3. The person holding the spacer block in place will then feed the tie wraps back down through the mounting holes, where they can be securely fastened. It is important to tighten the tie wraps so that the spacer blocks will not move while the second layer of plastic is being installed. The protruding ends of the tie wraps can then be trimmed.



4. Once all blocks are in place, the second layer of plastic can be installed over them. It is important to get this layer as tight as you can before fastening it to your structure. This will help create a more uniform air space as well as help prevent water and snow from accumulating between the spacer blocks.

Installation and Maintenance Tips:

- Run a string from end to end on your structure where each course of spacer blocks will be installed for an easy and fast way to ensure proper spacing. We used the fold marks on the bottom layer of plastic as a guide in our trials at the Johnny's Research Farm when installing the spacer blocks.
- Secure a 2x4 to the top rung of your ladder to make accessing the peak and upper areas of your structure safer and easier. Make sure to wrap the ends of the 2x4 to prevent damaging the bottom layer of plastic. With the ladder at this angle, make sure that the base is firmly secured to prevent slipping.
- In areas of moderate to heavy snow fall we recommend that snow be cleared periodically from on and around your structure to reduce the chance of collapse.
- It may be advantageous to install vertical posts that support the peak section of your bows if you live in areas that are prone to rapid accumulations of snow.

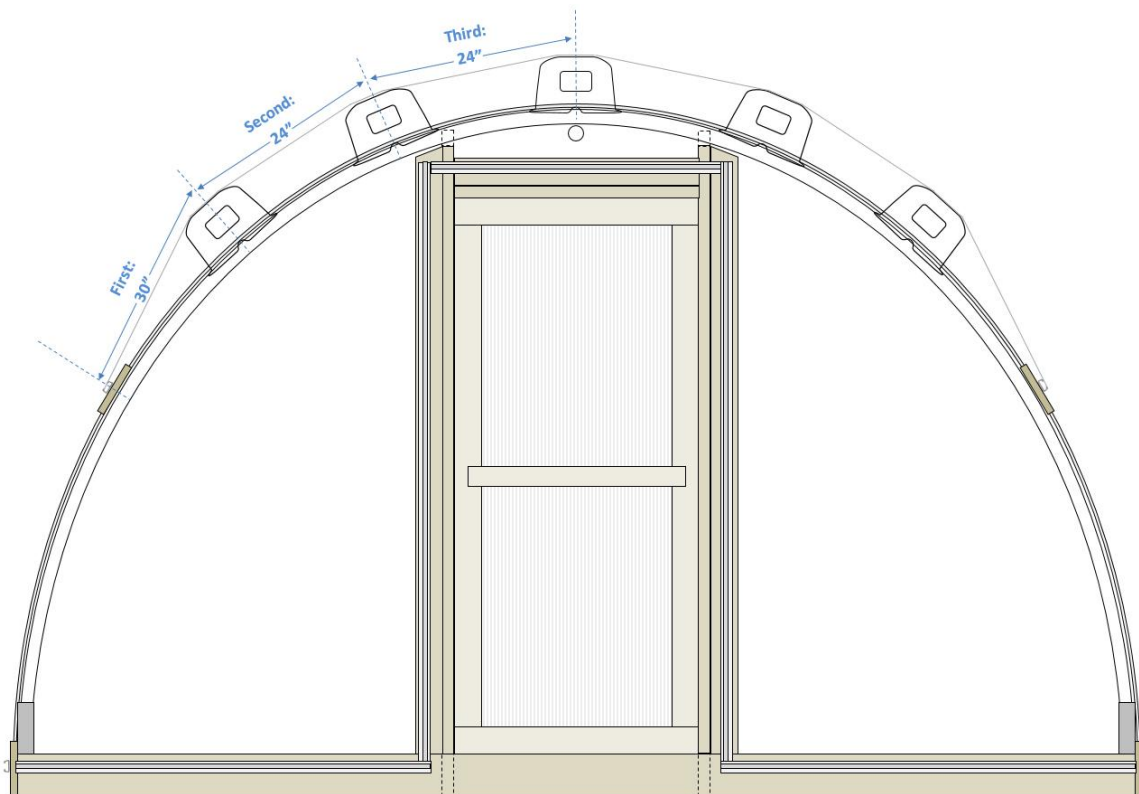


Additional Spacing Information

To determine the correct spacing of your blocks, you will need to measure the arch length — the distance in feet from the point your plastic will be attached, over the peak, and down to the same point on the opposite side, generally the hipboards. Reference the table below and find the arch length that most closely matches your structure.

The first block placement measurement corresponds to the distance from the point the plastic will be secured to the center of the first spacer block. The second measurement indicates the distance from the center of the first spacer block to the center of the next spacer block, and so on.

Arch Length (in feet)	Block Placement				
	First (in inches)	Second (in inches)	Third (in inches)	Fourth (in inches)	Fifth (in inches)
10	20	20	20		
11	22	22	22		
12	24	24	24		
13	30	24	24		
14	30	30	24		
15	32	30	28		
16	34	32	30		
17	26	26	26	24	
18	30	30	24	24	
19	30	30	30	24	
20	32	30	30	28	
21	32	32	32	30	
22	27	27	27	27	24
23	30	30	30	24	24
24	30	30	30	30	24
25	30	30	30	30	30
26	32	32	32	30	30
27	32	34	34	32	30
28	34	34	34	34	32
29	36	36	36	34	32
30	36	36	36	36	36



REV 12/23/2015 MN, RC

Copyright © 2015 Johnny's Selected Seeds. All rights reserved.