

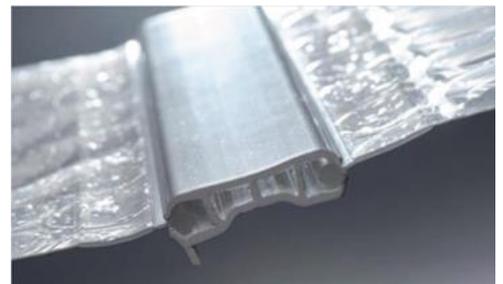


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SolaWrap is unlike traditional greenhouse film in both appearance and installation. In making your decision to use SolaWrap on a new greenhouse, or convert an existing one, there are a couple of things to bear in mind.



- The bows on your structure must be spaced precisely at 4-, 5-, or 6-feet on center to be compatible with SolaWrap. Installation has gone smoothly on manufactured greenhouse structures, such as the one pictured above at the Johnny's Research Farm. Self-constructed hoop houses may pose more of a challenge for installation if the bow spacing is not exact.
- Installation is more laborious with structures that have ridge vents or other features that make it impossible to install SolaWrap in one continuous piece. Ensure you have a plan for fastening SolaWrap at the peak if your greenhouse has a ridge vent.
- With larger greenhouses it can become difficult to pull the SolaWrap through the channel because of increasing friction over longer distances. It may be necessary to use a boom lift or tractor in order to get sufficient mechanical advantage to pull it all the way over your structure. This will be especially important if bows are not perfectly spaced, which can also increase friction.



- The extruded channel must be installed precisely, lining up exactly from one piece to the next. Moderate skill with hand tools is required for proper installation. Misalignment could lead to damaging the keder core, greatly reducing the strength of the final product.



Proper Alignment

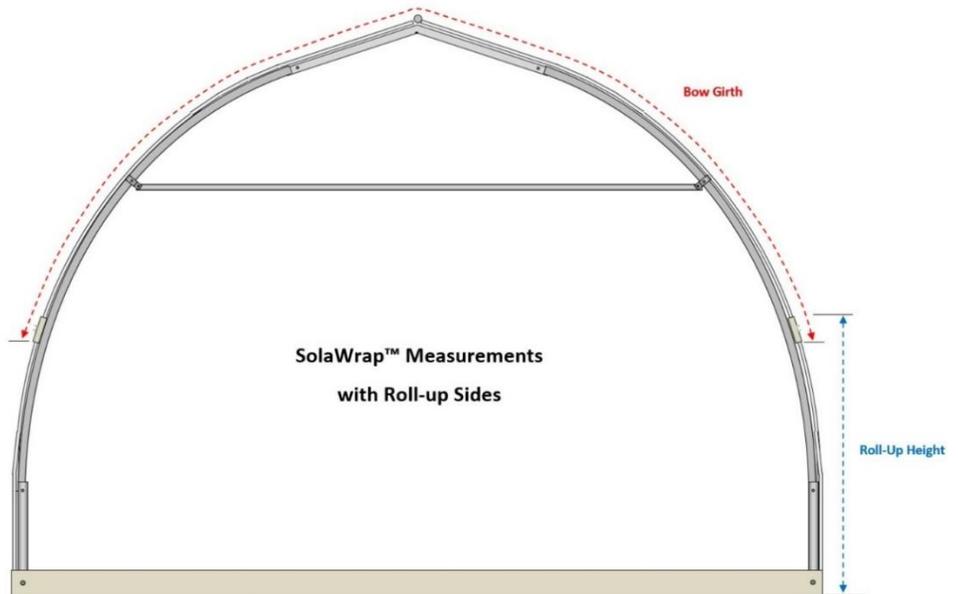


Unacceptable

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do you measure your greenhouse for ordering? (Roof only, see below for roll-up sides and end walls).

SolaWrap Covering: To cover the roof of your structure, measure the distance from the bottom of the hipboard (or wherever you will be starting each strip), along a bow and over the peak to the bottom of the opposite hipboard (or wherever you will be ending each strip) – described as the “bow girth” in the drawing to the right. Add 1 foot to that measurement to allow for overhang, especially if you will be installing roll-up sides, and a small margin of error. Multiply this by the number of spaces between bows on your greenhouse to get the total number of linear feet of SolaWrap you will need. Keep in mind that as you approach the end of a roll, you may be left with a piece that is too short to be usable. It is possible to replace a single strip of SolaWrap if it gets damaged, so purchasing extra might be beneficial.



Channel: Take the same measurement as described above, and multiply by the total number of bows. This gives you the length of channel you need. However, it is sold by the 10-foot piece, so to know how many 10-foot length of channel you need, divide the number by 10. It is usually a good idea to purchase a small amount of extra channel.

How do you calculate materials needed for roll-up sides?

SolaWrap Covering: Measure the length of your greenhouse and add 1 foot. This allows for 6 inches on either end that can be Poly Latch Wired or otherwise secured in preparation for winter.

Channel: Divide the length of the greenhouse by 10 to know the number of pieces of channel you need for roll-up sides.

How do you calculate materials needed for end walls?

Vertical supports capable of securely holding the channel must be present in the appropriate spacing. Measure the height from the ground (or the point on the end wall where SolaWrap will be fixed to the structure) to the highest point of each run. Add these together to calculate the total linear feet of SolaWrap needed for each end wall.

To calculate the amount of channel needed, measure from the ground (or where the end wall SolaWrap will be fixed to the structure) to the peak of each vertical support. Add these measurements to get the total length of channel required for the end walls. Divide by 10 to find the total number of pieces needed.

Can you use a shade cloth with SolaWrap? Will it accelerate wear?

Shade cloth may be used with SolaWrap and does not drastically increase wear as long the shade cloth is securely fastened to the structure, limiting movement. Make sure to use fasteners with rounded heads when installing the extruded channel if you plan on using shade cloth, so that it does not get stuck on each bolt as you try to pull it over.

Does SolaWrap really save money on heating during the winter?

“R-value” is a frequently used term to describe a material’s ability to retain heat. SolaWrap Greenhouse Covering has an R-value of 1.72. A double layer of polyethylene greenhouse film, which is the method many use to combat heating costs in the winter, also has an R-value of 1.7. With one layer of SolaWrap, you achieve the same R-value as a double layer of greenhouse film, but without the use of electricity or the noise of blowers. What’s more, the SolaWrap holds 60-95% IR radiation overnight, as compared to the 40% from a double layer of poly.

We currently have a greenhouse at Johnny’s Research Farm covered with SolaWrap. Our greenhouse manager has commented: “I have seen savings in fuel costs after the install of the SolaWrap, and I get fewer cold spots in the house compared to double wall poly. Light levels are more even throughout the house and I worry much less about wind events than I used to [because SolaWrap is more durable than traditional plastic]. I will eventually cover another house with SolaWrap.”



How long does SolaWrap last?

The standard life expectancy of SolaWrap covering is 10 years. However, with proper care, it can exceed that. Pictured to the right are two sections of SolaWrap, installed years apart — one is 4 years old and the other 14 years. It is the section on the left that is 14 years old.

REV 02/22/2017 MN, RC

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