

## **INFORMATION ON POLYTHENE**

Polythene not only allows you to grow crops by creating a controlled microclimate but also allows you to grow crops earlier and later in the year, thus extending the growing season.

Polythene is manufactured from EVA COPOLYMERS (ETHYLENE VINYL ACETATE) and carefully selected additives.

We are committed to providing our customers with the highest standard of product.

### **GUARANTEE OF POLYTHENE (5 YEARS)**

- Depending on the type of polythene bought, polythene is guaranteed against UV breakdown through exposure to sunlight. If correctly installed and guidelines are followed, most people will get 8 to 10 years, or even longer out of a cover. In the event that you are supplied a cover with a manufacturing defect, the guarantee covers you on a **PRO-RATA basis**. For example in the first year of failure, we will give you a new cover less the amount of use you have had from the cover.

Failure in Year 1 – 100% Discount

Failure in Year 2 – 80% Discount

Failure in Year 3 – 60% Discount

Failure in Year 4 – 40 % Discount

Failure in Year 5 – 20% Discount

The above guarantee applies only if our recommendations and conditions are observed.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS & CONDITIONS**

The life of your polythene is greatly influenced by how it is handled, installed and looked after. Below are recommendations and conditions that will limit the life of the Polytunnel film and also the extent of our guarantee.

#### **HANDLING AND STORAGE OF THE ROLLS**

- As the sheets thickness is limited to 1-2 tenths of a millimeter and even less, particular care should be taken when loading, transporting, and unloading and stocking, making sure not to drag the polythene sheets/rolls on the ground.
- The rolls have to be stored in a shaded, dry place and left in the original wrapping until installation, paying attention at the presence of rodents.
- The rolls should not be stored for more than 12 months before usage.

#### **INSTALLATION**

- Avoid installing the film during very hot, cold or windy days as there is a risk of inadequate film tensioning
- Do not leave the film unrolled or folded in the sun or exposed to frost even for a short time without heat/cold reflecting tarpaulin to protect the film.
- While unrolling the film, check the contact surface (ground or structures etc.) to avoid contact with sharp edges or abrasive surfaces. We recommend wrapping sharp fittings with tape and using Anti Hot spot tape where film is in contact with steelwork.
- Ensure the polythene is installed with the correct side is facing out for example ensure the Anti Drip side is on the interior of the structure.

- Heaters must be placed so that hot air is directed away from the film.
- The film should be properly tensioned; it should not exceed 3% of strain in either direction. This avoids the formation of wrinkles, flapping due to windy conditions (insufficient tension) and the reduction in the thickness of the sheet where it is held in place (overstretching).

#### **METAL GREENHOUSES & POLYTUNNELS**

- The film must only be used on galvanized zinc coated steel structures.
- Do not install on rusty metal structures that could damage the film by abrasion and by chemical degradation process.
- When using the film on new structures, make sure any residual traces of grease, lubricating oil or organic solvents are carefully removed. Also when the structures have been left open to the atmosphere or stored for a long time (even some months or more), make sure they are carefully cleaned before installation.
- Corners and edges should be rounded off or protected and any metal burring which could cut or damage the film should be removed or covered.
- The contact surface between the film and the frame should be protected using Anti Hot Spot tape applied to the external surface of the structure. This protects against early degradation of the film due to thermal action (high temperatures in the points of contact between the film and the metal frame of the greenhouse).
- Extensive research performed by leading manufacturers of additives shows that UV stabilizers included in plastic films can be inactivated by several categories of plant protection chemicals with a consequent reduction in stabilizing effect. Plastic film is stabilized only against degradation caused by sunlight. The user should therefore take particular care when using sulphur, chlorine, bromide, iron, copper, etc. which, on contact with the film, can accelerate degradation, especially in:
  - Areas where such substances are collected or accumulate (e.g. fastening profiles, gutter edges, laths etc.). To limit the interactions between harmful chemicals and the film: when using said treatments, be sure to follow manufacturers' instructions regarding dilution, supply pressure and settings of the spray nozzles, and limit the use of foggers, guns and sulphur sublimation systems inside the greenhouse;
  - avoid contact between the film and crops;
  - Always provide good ventilation of the greenhouse;
  - do not burn sulphur, PVC or other materials inside or close to the greenhouse.

It is not possible to give compensation for consequential claims.

#### **POLYTHENE CARE**

Cleaning Agents to clean polythene, Anti Hot Spot and Repair Tapes are available from CWP or The Polytunnel Company.

**Above is not an exhaustive list and we reserve the right to adjust information without giving prior notice.**