

## Soil Block Maker Instructions

### You will need:

- Fiskars® Soil Block Maker
- Seeds
- Seed starting soil
- Large container to mix soil in
- Tray with a lip at least 1 inch high for completed soil blocks (a standard cookie sheet tray will do)
- Grow lights or area with ample lighting

NOTE: One 8-quart bag of seed starting soil is usually enough to create 15 large soil blocks or 60 small soil blocks.

### Stage 1: Prep

1. Using the directions on the back of the soil bag, mix soil with water until you arrive at a peanut butter consistency. Mix with a trowel or spatula.
2. Determine if you will need 4 small soil blocks or 1 large soil block. This can be determined by the size of plant you are planning to grow.  
Examples: Use the large soil block for larger seeds/plants such as tomatoes, peppers, squash and melons. Use the smaller blocks for plants such as leafy greens and herbs.

### Stage 2: Create seed starters

3. Scoop soil mixture into soil block maker. Pack tightly until water begins to seep out of the holes at the top.  
Note: If you are not seeing water seep out, add small amounts of water to the soil, mix and repack as needed.
4. Place and hold the soil block maker on the tray while partially pressing the plunger to compress the soil further. This will ensure no air pockets remain, and that root growth will not be hindered.
5. Lift the soil block maker while fully pressing the plunger to eject the soil block onto the tray. Shake gently from side to side if needed.
6. Consult your seed packet for planting instructions, including how deep to plant your seeds, as well as if seeds should be covered with soil or not.
7. Place the correct amount of seeds in the hole (typically 2-3 seeds, depending on the variety).
8. Place tray in a sunny area. When soil blocks begin to dry out, pour water into the tray to water plants from the roots up. Be sure to give seedlings ample light – around 14-16 hours a day from either sunlight or grow lights.

### Stage 3: Transplant outside

9. Consult your seed packet to see when seedlings should be transplanted outside. This will depend on your weather zone.
10. For best results, it is recommended you acclimate your seedlings to the outdoors before fully transplanting them. This process is called "hardening." A basic timeline for hardening seedlings can be found below:

When	Action	Repeat
7-10 days before transplanting	Take seedlings outside and leave them in the shade for a few hours in the morning or afternoon. Bring them inside before nightfall.	1-2 days
4-8 Days before transplanting	Place the seedlings in partial sunlight for a few hours in the morning or afternoon. Then bring them inside before nightfall.	1-2 days
1-2 days before transplanting	Leave your seedlings outside all day in direct sun, then bring them inside before nightfall. Repeat the next day. If the weather is exceptionally hot, shelter your seedlings during the harshest part of the day, or move them into partial shade.	1-2 days

11. Once hardening is complete, use the instructions on the seed packet and plant seedlings to the correct spacing listed. Be sure to transplant the whole soil block in a hole of the same size to ensure you are at the proper depth.
12. Water as needed.