



Blake - Saving water with wicking beds and super soil

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

I wanted to save water from pot plants or people wasting water by just drinking half of it and then chucking out the rest of it on the dirt or chucking it down the drain.

I've done two parts - I did a wicking box and my super soil.

For my wicking box I needed to get a 750 litre chemical drum and rinsed it to get all the chemical out, then I had to chop it in half and then I had to make a little pipe that goes through underneath the drum so you need about the same width of the pipe as there is in there. Then you need an elbow and make it go up so it's about 15 centimetres away from the top, and then I had to make a little one centimetre hole there to fit a black poly pipe through. Then I had to put the pipe over the poly pipe and filled it up with a quarter of sand, then another quarter of mulch and then topped it with my super soil.

To make my super soil you have to have disposable nappies and approximately four cups of water and I had to use three nappies to make it. So firstly you place the nappy into the bucket and pour the water into the nappy so then it expands, then rip open the nappy and then you'll see some gel and then you put that into the bucket.

What makes the gel is the water crystals that is inside the nappy, then you need to put a cup of water in and stir it around a little bit with just the gel and then you need to get some potting mix or dirt or whatever you have lying around the house and mix it in.

Who did you work with?

For this project I worked with my mum mostly.

Biggest success?

Water saving is my biggest success. I might continue to do this still and make more of these with the super soil because it saves water.

Your advice to other students?

The best advice would be just try your best. I had to change my plan a little bit because I was planning to make sideways but I figured that it wouldn't work like that so I had to do it standing up long ways. Making my soil was the thing I enjoyed most.

This case study was transcribed from an interview. These are Blake's words and opinions.