

Greenhouse Flooring

Choosing between greenhouse flooring options includes considering many different factors. Drainage, decomposition, price, heat retention, comfort, and traction vary between flooring types and allow for a customization of your greenhouse that extends beyond visual appearance. Read on for some considerations when choosing your greenhouse flooring:



1. Drainage. Drainage is crucial in a wet environment like a greenhouse. If you're leaning toward a solid flooring material, like concrete or wood, keep in mind that you'll need to install drains to help keep your greenhouse flooring dry and your plants healthy and free from mold. You should consider the location of the drains carefully to ensure the drain is not in the middle of a proposed walkway or working area. Organic materials like pine needles, sawdust, and plain dirt floors have the best drainage capacities. Other materials, like gravel, bricks, and flagstones also drain well.



2. Decomposition. Organic materials such as bark mulch, sawdust, and wood will need replacing. These tend to decompose and becoming a breeding ground for algae and pests and the cost savings will become prohibitive in the long term when you need to remove and replace the rotting floor.

3. Price. The cost of flooring materials is by far one of the most important factors to consider when selecting between greenhouse flooring options. A concrete perimeter footing is the priciest but is typically a requirement if your greenhouse is 16x20 or larger. A full concrete slab is up to your discretion. You should plan to power wash the concrete with each annual cleaning to ensure that algae is not forming on the surface.

4. Heat retention is an important factor in the greenhouse if you live in a colder climate. Materials such as brick and flagstone will help trap and slowly release the day's heat during the cooler nighttime hours. This can help significantly decrease your heating costs during colder weather.



5. Comfort. Standing for many hours while caring for your plants can be hard on your body if you choose an unforgiving flooring type like concrete. Adding rubber mats where you stand most often may save your back and are very easy to rinse clean.



6. Traction. Your greenhouse floor will often be wet or covered in spilled soil. This can lead to slips and falls if you're not careful. If you opt for a gravel floor which is the most common, we recommend to dig out the sod about 6", lay down a weed screen, and then fill with ¾" crushed gravel for the best traction and drainage. You can then place concrete pavers in the center aisle for walkways and work areas.

7. Weeds. Remember that your greenhouse does a wonderful job at creating an environment that plants love – and that includes weeds! Before you lay down a floor base of gravel, pavers, dirt, or mulch, be sure to put weed screen underneath. This will save you time and hassle of pulling unwanted weeds on your greenhouse floor. It should be said

that growing into the ground, or building raised garden beds, also increases the risk of contamination. If you are plagued with pests and/or disease, removing and replacing the soil can be a back breaking job.

Newest Trend: Biochar has been used to manage weeds for many centuries and more recently, to improve soil conditions. Most commonly, the homeowner will use a sealed metal drum to burn organic matter such as grass, hay, leaves or wood. The matter is burned slowly and turned into a carbon rich soil additive that when combined with gravel or sand is very useful if you grow plants directly into the ground inside your greenhouse.



Call us today to discuss your greenhouse plans!