



“With your plants purchased, you can start the *really fun bit!*...

soften those hard lines with some natural texture, foliage and flowers, and start to *enjoy* your own space.”



You can find everything you need for your project at Applegate Garden's, visit www.applegategardens.co.uk.

Tools you may require;

spade,
trowel,
watering can,
slow release fertiliser,
weed membrane.

Good tips...

When standing on your freshly dug border, try to keep to a minimum the number of footprints you leave on the soil. When your foot crushes the soil, you are destroying the soils structure - which is not giving the plants their best start.

When you have finished planting, tidy the bed by lightly forking over the surface, especially over your footprints to restore the soil structure.

If using decorative gravel or slate as a mulch, add this around the plants - avoid placing too much around the base of the plant stems.



Follow these 3 easy steps;

1. Using your spade or trowel, dig a hole (cut a hole in the membrane if using one) removing enough earth so the depth of the hole equals the depth of the pot.

2. Give the pot a few taps on its side and gently slide the root ball from the pot. At this point, check the moisture level of the compost. If it is very dry, it would be wise to soak the plants root ball in a bucket of water. Check for bubbles - when they stop the root ball is saturated.

If the plant is 'pot bound' (very dense roots growing in circles around the pot) then gently tease out some of the roots, to give these roots a head start to establish in your border. Be careful not to damage the roots.

3. You can now place the plant in its hole, ensuring the soil levels match up. Back fill the sides of the hole with some of the soil removed when digging it. Firm the plant with your hands but don't over do this and damage it.

On larger specimens, shrubs or trees - use the heel of your foot to firm in the root ball. Don't be tempted to bury the plant under too much earth - you do not want to cover the plants stems.

Give your plants a generous watering to settle the soil around the roots, and repeat regularly in warm weather.

For more detailed advice on planting for beginners visit www.applegategardens.co.uk

You must also remember;

Place your plants in positions which take into account it's future growth height and spread. A light sprinkle of slow release fertiliser onto the soil can also help your new plants establish.

