

HydraFiber[®] Towers: Calculating and Mixing Blends



HydraFiber has become the successful “go-to” product for growers and blenders wanting to replace perlite and other raw materials. They are strengthening their supply and increasing economies with cost-effective HydraFiber Ultra and EZ Blend towers, available for immediate shipping. The tower material can be efficiently incorporated into blends following these simple calculations and standard equipment – no specialized machinery is needed.

EASY TO HANDLE AND PROCESS

HydraFiber 95-cu. ft. (3.5-cu. yd.) towers are available in two Ultra formulations (T160 and T365) and one EZ Blend formulation. The towers contain highly compressed material, with a 6:1 expansion rate for Ultra and 4:1 expansion rate for EZ Blend.



CALCULATING THE TOWER AMOUNT TO USE

- 1) The most efficient way to calculate the correct amount of HydraFiber to include in your mix is to determine the number of inches to cut and remove from the tower.

The numbers noted in this scenario are based on a 35% HydraFiber Ultra inclusion rate, and on using a 12-yard batch mixer. You can plug your own numbers into the formula based on your mixer size and desired HydraFiber inclusion rate. Questions? Your Technical Account Manager can help you with your calculations.

Size of batch mixer	12 yards
HydraFiber inclusion amount	x 35%
Cu. yd. HydraFiber needed	4.2 cu. yd.
27 cu. ft. per cu. yd.	x 27
Cu. ft. HydraFiber needed	113.4 cu. ft.
Cu. ft. per tower inch (see chart)	÷ 6
Tower inches needed to cut for blend	18.9 in.

	HYDRAFIBER ULTRA	HYDRAFIBER EZ BLEND
Total lbs. of fiber per 95-in. tower*	1,200 lb.	1,600 lb.
Expansion rate	6:1	4:1
Cu. ft. per tower inch	6 cu. ft.	4.2 cu. ft.

*Average height of tower may vary. Measure each tower and allow for +/- 5% tolerance for natural fiber expansion.

- 2) Cut the tower wrapper at all four corners down to approximately 18 to 20 inches and fold the wrapper down to expose the compressed HydraFiber material.
- 3) Put an identifying mark at the number of inches needed on the tower to achieve the desired HydraFiber rate.

MIXING YOUR HYDRAFIBER BLEND

- 4) Using the tines of a front end loader, "cut" the HydraFiber material horizontally at the marks made in Step 3 above. Make as clean a break as possible.



- 5) Remove that chunk of HydraFiber material from the tower and dump into the bucket blender, batch mixer or RotoMixer.
- 6) Break HydraFiber material into smaller chunks using hands or hand tool.

- 7) Add other substrates.
 - Add HydraFiber to batch mixer AFTER other substrate materials are added.
 - If using coir, be sure it is hydrated before adding.



- 8) Mix for a minimum of 10 minutes to assure that all materials are blended together.
- 9) Add lime and other amendments after substrates are well-mixed.

Contact a HydraFiber expert at hydrafiber@profileproducts.com or 800-496-0955 for custom blending calculations and specific recommendations for your location.



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