



BUILDING DEPARTMENTS & YOUR GROWING DOME

So, you've decided to build a Growing Dome AND obtain a building permit. Don't worry! We are here to tell you that this is attainable, and you have the support you need. After 30+ years of manufacturing and building Growing Domes we are skilled at facilitating the permitting process. Plus, you're following a positive precedent; Growing Dome owners around the country from hobby gardeners to large institutions have had great success in obtaining permits.

That said, you do have some work ahead of you. The amount of effort depends on where you live and how your building codes are structured. We have a general set of plans stamped by an engineer in Colorado, but your building department may require extra information over and above what is in our general plans. Depending on the requirements, additional changes to the plans may be necessary and you will be responsible for the charges involved. As a basic rule, plan changes for the 15' to 33' diameter Growing Domes can range from \$350 to \$1000.

To get you started on the road to success, we will need from your building department the following information listed on the "Building Department Questionnaire". Please take this questionnaire to your building department for them to fill out. Once the building department has completed the form below, please send it back to us and we will review to see if changes are necessary. If no changes are required, we will send you our general plans free of charge upon payment for your Growing Dome kit. If you do need changes to the plans, we'll connect you with an engineer that can make the adjustments. We will do our best to help expedite the process, but please know that depending on the requirements of your building department and availability of the engineer, this process may take anywhere from one week to several months. Every building department has a different permitting process and different requirements. The process can vary, even within the same county.

We are excited that you are on the path to living a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle and we look forward to working with you.

Building Department Questionnaire

Date:	Customer E-mail:		
Name of Customer:			
Physical Address of Customer's site:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Size of Growing Dome:			
Building Department Requirement for the Foundation: <input type="checkbox"/> Compacted gravel with rebar <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete piers <input type="checkbox"/> Full concrete forms foundation			
Frost Depth:			
Any Seismic Requirements:			
Snow Load PSF/Live or Dead:			
Wind Load MPH (gust or zone requirements):			
Is Code Compliance IBC or UBC? (and year?):			
Required Year for Stamp :			
Are wet stamp(s) required and how many? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO # of stamps _____	If no wet stamp, how many copies are needed? # of copies _____		
Where does the engineer on record have to be licensed? (please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> The state where the Growing Dome is going to be installed <input type="checkbox"/> The state where the kit is manufactured (Colorado)			
Normal plans contain: Plan view, elevation, foundation plan and detail, cross section of the wall and elevation along with the specifications of components and materials. Any further drawings required? If so, what is needed?			
Does this project require ADA compliance? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
Does the contractor have to be registered in the county, city, or town?			

About the Foundation of the Growing Dome®

There are a few foundation options for the Growing Dome. Essentially, the structure is very light; the ground loading is 10-30 lbs./ft². The purpose of a Growing Dome foundation is basically to anchor the Growing Dome to the ground. The above ground pond, being bolted to the foundation wall, also helps in the anchoring process. Obviously, a complex foundation will significantly add to the overall cost of the Growing Dome, therefore the simpler foundation options are recommended unless there are other important deciding factors. The following factors need to be taken into consideration:

BUILDING CODES: Because the Growing Dome is a structure designed and used for agricultural purposes, as well as easy assembling and disassembling, many building departments waive the requirements for permits and permanent foundations, while others are more stringent. This is obviously an important factor if you choose to consult with them when installing your Growing Dome.

TERMITES: In Southern climates, the presence of termites can make it necessary to have a concrete foundation with a termite barrier or modify the foundation wall to resist termite damage.

SEVERE WINDS AND /OR SNOW LOADS: In areas of exceptional snowfall level or extreme wind conditions, the Growing Dome structure, although very strong in original design, would benefit from concrete piers or a concrete foundation. Growing Spaces® will be able to help you determine if this is necessary and your building department may require concrete piers or concrete foundation depending on where you live.

FROST DAMAGE: In areas of severe frost penetration, a Growing Dome on a low-cost foundation may experience movement due to the frost / thawing process. Because the Growing Dome is such a rigid structure, this does not create a problem, except occasionally at the doorway. Also, important to remember: the foundation might have an insulated frost barrier *and* the Growing Dome comes with the undersoil ventilation system. Very rarely have we encountered serious problems due to frost damage.

The following are the foundation options we have available:

1. **Low cost:** The Growing Dome sits on a circular ring of compacted gravel. The Growing Dome kit comes with foundation walls that sit on this ring. This option is suitable for sizes 15' diameter to 26' diameter.
2. **Intermediate cost:** This foundation has concrete Sonotube® piers at each of the vertices of the foundation. The foundation wall is fixed to the piers with expansion bolts. This is an excellent foundation for very soft soil conditions. This foundation option is recommended for 33' Growing Domes and required for 42' Growing Domes.
3. **High cost:** A plywood formed and poured concrete foundation is one option; an insulated concrete form type foundation is yet another option. Both options make a strong foundation. The insulated concrete forms provide excellent insulation. This type of foundation is optional unless, in a rare event, your building department requires it.

Examples of Foundation Types



1. Gravel Ring



2. Concrete Piers



3. Concrete Foundation