A Guide to Greenhouse Roof Vent Openers

Ventilation is important in a greenhouse for fresh air to plants, controlling temperature and reduces the likelihood of pests. Our extra wide greenhouse vent openers are solar powered, simple to install and completely automated.
How Do The Automatic Greenhouse Vent Openers Work?

Inside the piston, there is a cylinder of wax. When the temperature increases, the wax expands and pushes the vent open. Often on larger greenhouses you will see the roof vents open at different times of the day based on the location of the sun. It is an old-school approach that stands the test of time.

How Long Do The Cylinders Last?

Bayliss wax cylinders have a shelf life of approximately 7 years depending on your climate. Locations with more severe temperature swings may see a shorter cylinder life span. The wax cylinders will actually last longer if the greenhouse roof vent remains operational in winter however you can remove the entire MK7 hinge to avoid concerns about gusty, windy, winter conditions. Remember to use wire or zap straps through the screw holes to shut the vent otherwise it will open unsecured.

Types of Cylinders:

Standard MK7 Triple Spring

Bayliss MK7 power tubes are available with 2 different models. The only difference is the operational temperatures of the power tube. The Orchid Wax model allows you to keep the greenhouse warmer in cold weather while working well in hot weather also.

Adjustable Temperature Range:

- Standard initial opening temperature range: 55° F to 70° F
- Orchid Wax initial opening temperature range: 70° F to 85° F

CYLINDER REPLACEMENT COST (SOLD IN PACKS OF TWO)

Standard ...........................................$65 EACH
Orchid Wax .................................$70 EACH

Hydraulichek Openers

The addition of a small hydraulic damper to the MK7 Automatic vent opener creates makes the Hydraulichek suitable for use in severe weather conditions as it can be opened slowly but also shut quickly. Ideal for high wind and gusts and areas that require more weather protection.

MK7 STANDARD CYLINDER (SOLD IN PACKS OF TWO) .................................965 EACH

Super Heavy Lifter for Double Glass Roof Vents

The super autovent is suitable for operating heavy double glazed conservatory and greenhouse vents. It opens a vent exerting a load of up to 35 pounds. Fifteen inches long at full opening and operates between 60°F (16°C) and 75°F (25°C).

CYLINDER REPLACEMENT COST .................................9120 EACH

TROUBLE WITH YOUR AUTOMATIC ROOF VENTS?

Are they not opening enough or perhaps not at all? It could be that the wax in the cylinder just needs a simple kick start and a warm bath. Here is a tip to see if you can get them working again:

Remove the cylinder and place it in the fridge (not freezer) for 30 minutes. Immediately after removing from the fridge, run the cylinders under hot water in the sink for 5-10 minutes. If this doesn't work, you will likely have to replace the wax cylinder.
Adjusting The Cylinder For Higher Temperatures:

If you would like the vent to open at a higher temperature, screw the adjuster out of the swiveling block but ensure that there are at least four "threads" visible on the adjuster screw.

Replacing Your Cylinder:

If the piston on the replacement tube is too long and won’t fit into the opener, that means the tube is hot and the wax is expanding. Put the tube into the refrigerator for about one-half hour and push the piston back in until it is the length needed to install into the opener.

- Unscrew the knurled adjuster screw and remove.
- Remove the lock washer from pin at vent end. An easy method is to pry up an edge, then cut with wire cutters.
- Slide pin out.
- Carefully remove the cylinder keeping the 2 pairs of white washers in place.
- Slide steel piston out of swivel block.
- Slip steel piston of new cylinder through swiveling block.
- Line up other end of cylinder with the Bottom Rail “T” bracket and the 2 pairs of white washers.
- Slide the pin through.
- Force washer over end of pin by setting the opener down with the pin supported and line up the washer over the head of the pin. Set the same end of the old cylinder over the washer and hit with a hammer (as needed). The pin will push up through the hole in the old cylinder neatly seating the new washer.
- Replace knurled adjuster and adjust for desired temperature.

To place an order for replacement cylinders, speak with our Technical Support Team.

For complete instructions on how to replace the wax cylinder, view our short video: www.bcgreenhouses.com/cylinders/