Proven quality and service
Over 50 years of experience in the polyhouse market
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As a division of Fordingbridge plc, we at Polyhouse.com have gained over 50 years of experience in the design and construction of polyhouses. With our outstanding reputation as one of the UK’s first and largest manufactures of single, multispan and hybrid polyhouses, we have worked with a magnitude of nurseries, growers and retailers. As a result, we have developed the strong expertise needed to provide superior quality products, designed to stand the test of time.

Manufactured in our advanced, purpose built factory near Chichester, West Sussex, all of our polyhouses are created under our complete control and precise supervision. In order to maintain a high-quality production process, we have tried and tested many suppliers and consequently are confident in supplying the best polythene cover.

**As our client, you can be assured that we take great pride in working collaboratively to ensure your expectations are always exceeded.**

**Chris Rowland**

Chris has been with Fordingbridge for over 30 years, starting in production and progressing through the stores, to stores manager /goods inwards, installation, transport and logistics departments before finally finding his forte within purchasing alongside Horticultural sales.

His long standing relationships with suppliers and contacts have developed into providing sub contract manufacturing sales which is now an integral part of Fordingbridge’s core business.

Chris’s experience in both buying and selling gives Fordingbridge the competitive advantage as this is something which can only be built up over time.

**Garry Summerfield**

Following many years in the polyhouse industry, Garry has gained an in depth knowledge of polytunnels. Having worked with clients on all types of horticultural structures, from basic single span through to large multispan areas in growing, retail & livestock sectors, has made Garry’s expertise invaluable.

This experience allows Garry to advise customers on all aspects of their polytunnel project including polythene types, ventilation, doors etc.
The single span range
The Standard Polyhouse

A low cost, high quality structure frame using large diameter Z35 tube, all with single ridge and all set on swaged foundation tubes. These Polyhouses are fast to build and have a secure anchorage to the ground. All standards have excellent side clearance and ‘shoulder room’ coupled with lower height profile which can be an advantage for planning permission purposes.

“I have been handling Fordingbridge polytunnels for some thirty years. During this time many new ideas have emerged both in innovative design and materials. What has always impressed me, is how this company has been actively involved in designing and producing high quality structures, manufactured to exacting standards. This is backed up with an excellent sales and aftercare service carried out in a courteous and efficient manner.”

Archie Bingham
Causeway Garden Plants
Standard 18ft

The smallest of the standard polytunnel range available, this is a versatile, competitively priced unit suitable for all crops.
Ventilation is improved dramatically with increased tunnel width because of the greater height and volume of air. Side ventilation is very economic on structures of 21ft and upwards. All door and vent options are available for this tunnel.
Standard 24ft

The 24ft wide has excellent side clearance and with the extra span, this size allows for greater flexibility for path layouts and crop.
Standard 28ft

This structure introduced by us, 32 years ago, set the standard for the UK Tunnel industry. It is highly cost effective with excellent side clearance. High strength and uncluttered design has made it the choice for thousands of growers throughout Europe. Any combination of vents or doors can be added.
Standard Euro Case Study

Single span

Size 18ft

Location: Ferring Nurseries, West Sussex

Very low cost – yet high quality structure frame using 50mm diameter Z35 high tensile tube with single ridge and all set on swaged foundation tubes. This arrangement means the 18ft is fast to build and has a very secure anchorage to the ground. Excellent side clearance and shoulder room. This size has a lower height profile which can be an advantage for planning permission on sensitive sites.

“From initial consultation to completion, a truly professional service. Fordingbridge’s knowledge, expertise and industry experience allowed the whole project to flow smoothly.

David Courtenay Luscombe
Owner, Ferring Nurseries”
Euro Case Study

Euro range

Size: 9m Euro

Location: Causeway Garden Plants, Northern Ireland

The largest in our Euro range, the 9m Euro comes with cross bracing as standard, it also gives the biggest opening on the gables which provides excellent access. All hoops are completely vertical for the first 1000mm – this gives the best possible clearance for access or for plants. It assists ventilation and does not allow rain to drip into the structure. All Euro polyhouses, with the exception of the 5m, use 60mm Z35 high tensile steel tube, galvanised inside and out for maximum corrosion prevention.

“Excellent sales and aftercare service carried out in a courteous and efficient manner.”

Archie Bingham
Owner, Causeway Garden Plants
The Euro range

Our design expertise has allowed us to manufacture the superb Euro range. With all hoops positioned to be completely vertical for the first 3ft 3ins (1m) from ground level, there is great clearance for access or for plants. It assists ventilation where side rails set at up to 1200mm (4ft) and does not cause rain to drip into the structure. All Polyhouses, with the exception of the 5m span, use 60mm Z35 high tensile steel tube, galvanized for maximum corrosion prevention.

“I have always dealt with Fordingbridge Tunnels for my tunnel requirements. I have bought 5 tunnels from Fordingbridge as the quality and price has always very good. I deal with Chris Rowland and he has always been very helpful with his advice. The products have always been well made and with our site being very exposed to the south westerly prevailing wind the tunnels have stood up very well to what has been thrown at them so far. I would definitely recommend Fordingbridge to other business's for their tunnel needs.”

Derek Upton
Owner, Meadow Farm Nurseries
The high tensile 50mm tube allows for a hoop spacing of 2m. The vertical size ensures maximum space utilisation in this relatively narrow structure.
**Euro 6m**

Despite the vertical sides, clever design has kept the ridge height down to only 3.2m. This structure allows for excellent ventilation and maximum strength. Hoop spacing, as all Euro's is 2m. All door and vent combinations can be used.
A great all-round structure, ideal for almost any crop, with excellent side clearance yet retaining a ridge height of only 3.3m. This structure is the tunnel of choice for many small to medium sized nurseries. All door and vent combinations can be used.
**Euro 8m**

With this wider span structure, the mixture of height, space and ventilation is unrivalled. The 3.4m ridge height allows almost any plants to be grown and with optional cross bracing, this polyhouse is ideal for hanging baskets or vegetable crop support. The 8m Euro also provides the choice of all door and vent combinations.
The 9m (30ft) span offers excellent cost per unit area with wonderful air space and almost always used with side ventilation for optimum growing conditions. The ridge height of 3.5m allows almost any plants to be grown. This structure includes cross bracing as standard which is often used for baskets or other crop support. This single span can use all door and vent options.
The Multispan range

The Multilink CBV

This range also includes aluminium gutters with grip rail cladding systems. They have completely vertical sides to the gutter height of 8ft (2.44m). Eave gutters and cross-braces, for crop support, are included as standard on all Multilink CBV Polyhouses. This structure comprises only steel and aluminium for side rails and end frames.

Hybrid

The CBV Hybrid Polytunnel offers customers a maximum ventilation growing environment with standard 3m straight sides. Using 80mm x 80mm box section stanchions and internal spacing’s on 16ft (4.9m) to give greater growing or sales area. Aluminium gutters and steel skirts are standard with optional aluminium and polycarbonate doors. If required roof ventilation can also be added to work with roll up side vents, automation is an optional extra. The structure can be used using single or twin skin polythene methods. This structure can also offer a plant sales canopy solution for retail nurseries and farm shops that do not require full retail classification.

"Great structure made by Fordingbridge which has made a fantastic cost effective canopy. This has enhanced our display area and consequently improved sales. Chris Rowland was extremely knowledgeable and helpful. His input was invaluable. We wouldn’t hesitate to use Fordingbridge again."

Ian Burton
Owner, Lower Trees Nursery
The 21ft Multilink CBV set the standard for UK horticulture over 30 years ago, when it was introduced. This structure eliminates the use of any timber with steel and aluminium ends as standard. Another important standard feature is aluminium valley and eave gutters which will save on maintenance costs and will never rust. The sides are completely vertical and include mid-rail within the cost, side ventilation is simple and easy to install either at height or low level. This structure can also offer a plant sales canopy solution for retail nurseries and farm shops that do not require full retail classification.
Multilink case study

21ft Multilink CBV

Size: 21ft

Location: Liss Forest, Hampshire

The Multilink CBV range has aluminium gutters, lintels and grip rail cladding systems. They have completely vertical sides to the gutter height of 2.44m. Eaves gutters are included on all multilink CBV polyhouses.

Cross braces for crop support are included as standard. Timber is completely eliminated from the structure with extensive use of aluminium for side rails and end frames. This all contributes to the longevity of the structure and also reduces maintenance.
Multilink case study

26ft Multilink CBV

Size: 26ft

Location: Langley Farm Nursery, Hampshire

This larger model uses 60mm Z35 high tensile tube for the frame and 50mm Z35 high tensile tube for the cross bracing and incorporates stronger welded stanchions.

The Multilink CBV range has aluminium gutters, lintels and grip rail cladding systems. They have completely vertical sides to the gutter height of 2.44m. Eaves gutters are included on all multilink CBV polyhouses. Cross braces for crop support are included as standard.

Timber is completely eliminated from the structure with extensive use of aluminium for side rails and end frames. This all contributes to the longevity of the structure and also reduces maintenance.
PROVEN QUALITY AND SERVICE

26ft Multilink CBV

The 26ft Multilink CBV has the same great features as the 21ft CBV, but uses 60mm high tensile tube and welded stanchions. It is ideal where greater internal space is required for a wide range of vegetable, ornamental or nursery stock crops. Available as standard with steel and aluminium ends to eliminate all timber. Very little maintenance is required once built. This structure can also offer a plant sales canopy solution for retail nurseries and farm shops that do not require full retail classification.
The Hybrid Polytunnel offers customers a maximum ventilation growing environment with standard 3m straight sides. Using 80mm x 80mm box section stanchions and internal spacing’s on 16ft (4.9m) to give greater growing or sales area.

Aluminium gutters and steel skirts are standard with optional aluminium and polycarbonate doors. If required roof ventilation can also be added to work with roll up side vents, automation is an optional extra. The structure can be used using single or twin skin polythene methods.

This structure can also offer a plant sales canopy solution for retail nurseries and farm shops that do not require full retail classification.
Guide to purchasing a polyhouse

To ensure that you find your perfect polyhouse and an easy purchasing process, please read our guide.

Planning permission

In most cases, planning permission is required for these types of buildings. With our in-house design team, we can supply the necessary drawings to make an application for you.

Ordering the correct size

The size of a polyhouse is taken from the centre of the foundation tubes, down the length of the building. With Single spans, the measurement is the outside of the hoop span to ground level. With multispans, you would take the inner span from the centre of the gutter to gutter.

Foundations

We recommend that all our Polyhouses are anchored using concrete foundations. As a rule of thumb, you will need 1 cubic meter for every 10 foundation tubes. For example, a 7m x 18m would need around 2 cubic meters.

Ventilation considerations

Our Polyhouses are more securely sealed than a conventional glasshouse. Ventilation and air circulation is vital for plant growth and health, therefore please select one of the following options for your polytunnel.

Timber rails

Are a low cost, simple system and easy to install. The edge of the film is wrapped around a batten which is then nailed to a timber rail bolted to the Polyhouse frame.

Aluminium rails

Are an extruded grip rail cladding system for secure flexible sheeting. A base extrusion is secured to the structure framework and the cladding film stretched over it. The extruded aluminium infill section is then inserted into the base securing the film between the two components. Grip rail is extremely versatile and can be used with a wide range of different film thicknesses, simply using a different infill to match the cladding material used.

These mid rails come complete with railing for each side of the relevant structure including a minimum 1.2m (94ft) return at each end. Fittings required for fixing the rail to the steel framework are also included. The height of these vents is dependent on the hoop profile.

Roll Up Side Vents

Works by the film being wound around a tube, which is normally turned manually by a small gearbox unit. In certain situations, it can be electrically operated. This method is a very clean, neat system which can work on a curved side and retro-fitted if required. Roll up sides can also be used on gable ends of multispans if there are not too many door apertures.

Gable-End Vents (Louvres)

The larger Polyhouses can benefit from our effective butterfly vents. These can be arranged at high level, or low level, either side of the doorways in most Polyhouses. Gable-end vents have a simple spring loaded 3-position hinge stay for variable ventilation rates. Other permutations may be possible on certain Polyhouses, please contact for details.
Guide to purchasing a polyhouse

Cladding options

Please note we strongly recommend the use of anti-hot spot tape between the steel tunnel frame and all claddings. For this reason, we include the tape in the pricing of the cladding when purchasing a new structure. The use of anti-hot spot tape can extend the life of these polythene films. It is important that anti-hotspot tape is replaced every second cladding, as the expected lifetime of the tape is 6-8 years.

BPI Visqueen film

- **bpi Visqueen Lumisol ‘Clear’ 5S** - Clear cover incorporating a UV “Transparent” characteristic. This cover transmits a high percentage of UV light which can assist the colour, flavour and fragrance in a wide range of flower and full crops.

- **bpi Visqueen Lumisol ‘Diffused’ 5S** - Very high diffusing cover incorporating a UV “Transparent” characteristic. This transmits a high percentage of UV light which can assist the colour, flavour and fragrance in a wide range of flower and full crops. In addition, UV transparent films promote plant anti-oxidants, which are good for health, and encourage stronger plants. This greatly benefits plant raisers and young plant growers as stronger plants can be easier to plant out thus saving time and raising productivity.

Netting sheets

Bespoke sizes made using black tape net or Green monofilament net.

XL Polythene

We offer a complete range of polythene to suit your growing requirements, and incorporate technologies to increase the strength of their films as well as offering all the features and benefits of other polythene films.
Guide to purchasing a polyhouse

Cross-bracing

For polyhouse models which do not include cross-bracing as standard, this is available as an optional extra. Cross bracing is a horizontal and vertical bracing arrangement across the span of a hoop. It can increase the resistance to snow and wind loadings particularly in exposed positions and can, in some instances, be used as a ‘crop support’ for the hanging of baskets/containers and irrigation lines.

Doors

Our door kits contain all the parts required; hinges, screws, handles and for sliding doors, our extruded aluminium top track and steel base rail. Please note that door kits do not include timber end frames. To establish the correct door and louvre options, please refer to individual products.

Timber doors

We can supply joinery made timber doors, either single or double, low cost hinged or sliding. The small tunnels (up to 18ft/5.5m wide) can normally only fit hinged doors because of the lack of width for sliding. For these smaller tunnels the standard door panels are 6.6ft (2m) high and approximately 1.2m wide. For tunnels 21ft (6.4m) and wider, the doors are 6.9ft (2.1m) high.

Aluminium doors

We can supply aluminium framed sliding doors, clad with rigid polycarbonate and an aluminium base panel.
**Anti-hot spot tape**

A white polyester-faced foam tape, backed with an adhesive to fix it securely to the upper surface of the steel hoops. The shiny polyester face has a low co-efficient of friction and helps to reduce abrasion between the steel hoop and polythene cover. The white surface of the tape reflects light and, with the foam insulation, prevents heating of the film by the steel framework. The use of foam tape can extend the life of these polythene films by at least one year. It is important that anti-hotspot tape is replaced every second cladding.

**Swage**

Where the tube end is reduced in diameter for approximately 100mm along its length. This allows tubes to sleeve together giving a low cost, extremely strong join fast to assemble. The foundation tubes to hoops, the hoops themselves and the ridge and cross-braces use this swage system.

**Cross bracing**

A horizontal and vertical bracing arrangement across the span of a hoop. It can increase the resistance to snow and wind loadings particularly in exposed positions and can, in some instances, be used as a ‘crop support’ for the hanging of baskets/containers and irrigation lines.
Complying with Health & Safety

Health and Safety compliance

Polyhouses.com is committed to ensure the Health, Safety and Welfare of everyone involved in the building and recladding of our Polyhouse structures.

Under the Work at Height regulations 2005, employers and those in control of any work at height activity must make sure work is properly planned, supervised and carried out by competent people.

Single span Polyhouses

Single span polyhouses can be built and clad without any specialised equipment as access to all sides should be available from ground level. However, on higher sided polytunnels risk assessments must be carried out by a competent person and control measures must be put in place, where necessary, to ensure a safe system of work. This may mean using equipment such as scaffold towers or scissor lifts.

Twin and Multispan Polyhouses

The construction of twin and multispan polyhouses require a higher number of safety measures to ensure the safety of personnel. In this instance, the highest risk is falls from height when operatives are gaining access to, walking in and working from the valley gutters. As these hazards cannot be eliminated, the only viable safe system of working is from within the gutter.

To mitigate any falls from height, safety nets need to be fitted to the structure on either side of the valley gutter. It has been established that the most efficient layout of the nets is to have one either side of a valley gutter, fixed to each post at the gutter and secured to the ridge bar in an upward direction to maintain an incline of the nets to minimise any fall from height. No gaps or obstructions; e.g. support canes, benches etc, underneath are permitted in the netting that would allow someone to fall through.
Re-cladding or refurbishing

If cladding or recladding a twin-span polytunnel, two nets will be required. If building or refurbishing a Multispan structure, then a minimum of four nets will be required. When the first two spans have been successfully clad, two of the nets can be moved to the next unprotected valley gutter. Under no circumstances should walking the gutter of a clad framework without netting underneath be deemed a safe working platform. Old polythene, due to age and ultra violet breakdown, becomes very brittle and will not sustain the load of someone falling against it. Similarly, new polythene may seem strong enough but if pierced a tear line will form if a load is applied.

These structures have fragile roofs and any access for maintenance or repair must be carefully risk assessed and work carried out by trained and competent people.

If you have any further concerns about Health & Safety and our Polyhouses, please contact us or check the HSE about working safely at height www.hse.gov.uk
Based throughout the UK and offering a localised service, our agents would be delighted to hear from you. Contact your local agent for expert advice on your own polyhouse project and the answers to any questions and queries you may have. If you are unable to contact your nearby agent, we at Fordingbridge are happy to help.

**How to order your polyhouse**

**South West**

Smith n Jones  
Contact: Chris Hill  
Phone: 07702185427  
Email: hello@polytunnelsrus.co.uk  
Website: www.polytunnelsrus.co.uk

**South East**

Cropwatch Horticulture  
Contact: Trevor Austin  
Phone: 01304 363383  
Email: Austin-cropwatch@hotmail.co.uk  
Website: cropwatchhorticultur.wix.com/cropwatchhorticultur

Polytek Service Limited  
Contact: Warren Rickets  
Phone: 07836501399  
Email: warren@polytek.co.uk  
Website: www.polytek.co.uk

**Midlands**

BHGS  
Phone: 01386 444100  
Email: sales@bhgs ltd.co.uk  
Website: www.bhgs ltd.co.uk

**North**

J F Horticultural Supplies Ltd  
Phone: 01270 212726  
Email: mail@jfhhorticultural.com  
Website: www.jfhhorticultural.com

**North East**

Hortech System Limited  
Contact: Mick Seaman, Aaron Parker  
Phone: 01406 426513  
Email: info@hortechsystems.co.uk  
Website: www.hortechsystems.co.uk

**Ireland**

Tennelly Products  
Contact: Seamus Donnelly  
Phone: (028) 3885 1336  
Email: info@donnellyhorticulture.com  
Website: www.donnellyhorticulture.com/tennelly.htm

**Jersey**

A H Engineers limited  
Contact: Andy Hamon  
Phone: 07797 744355  
Email: ahengineers@hotmail.com

John O’Connor Plumbing  
Contact: John O’Connor  
Phone: 07797 718336  
Email: Johnoconnor1956@hotmail.co.uk