



CLINGSEAL-MAIZE SILAGE SHEETING SPECIFICATION SHEET

Manufactured using the latest 5 and 7 layer technology, the innovative combination of Visqueen Agri-S and Visqueen Clingseal helps to create the right anaerobic conditions for fast, efficient fermentation.

- > Reduces air pockets
- > Reduces losses in the clamp
- > Facilitates a more efficient fermentation
- > 100% recyclable



Makers of maize silage urged to use thinner, flexible sheets alongside traditional silage sheeting to maximise forage quality

Thanks to its high nutritional content, maize silage has a lot to offer as a forage option for both dairy and beef herds. However, maize can be a marginal crop if not harvested and ensiled correctly. Obtaining high nutritional composition (from the starch in the cob) by being able to harvest at crop maturity can be a challenge. Even when maize is harvested at just the right time, the DM and energy losses between harvest and feed-out can be considerable.

The target feed ME (Metabolizable Energy) content of maize should be 11.5 - 12 MJ of ME/kg DM. To achieve this, the grain in the cob at harvest should be approximately one-third yellow (the outer most section) and two-thirds white. When an individual grain is squeezed between the thumb and forefinger it should be soft but with no free liquid. If the crop can be harvested at this stage of cob maturity, whilst the stem and leaves are still green, there is a good chance of hitting the energy target. However, there is a risk of losing energy value during ensiling and feed-out, where poor preservation and feed-out processes can result in high losses, particularly around the sides and top of a silage clamp.

In recent years many farmers have started to apply a thinner, more flexible, low permeability film – such as Visqueen Clingseal – to their silage clamps.

The way Visqueen Clingseal works is simple. Designed for use underneath a conventional, high quality silage sheet, Visqueen Clingseal 'clings' more closely to the contours of the clamp's surface and tucks in better at the sides. This closer fit minimises the presence of air pockets, depriving aerobic bacteria, such as those that cause white mould, of the oxygen they need to grow.

In addition, the enhanced air barrier achieved using Visqueen Clingseal also facilitates a faster, more efficient fermentation process to deliver enhanced silage quality.

Using a product like Visqueen Clingseal during the clamping process is especially beneficial when ensiling moist feeds like brewers' grains and crimped maize which are not only higher value crops, but are also more susceptible to wastage. Quite simply, using this new type of film helps to produce better quality silage with less waste.

Although Visqueen Clingseal is thin and flexible enough to mould itself to the clamp surface it is also sufficiently tough to be handled robustly whilst being laid, thanks to the polymer science and modern manufacturing techniques employed in its production.

Top tips for better application

- > It is essential to ensure the clamp has been filled and compacted correctly before applying the product.
- > Do not overfill the clamp as this can exacerbate the problem of surface waste.
- > Apply Visqueen Clingseal to the clamp surface as soon as possible after filling.
- > Take care to finish, seal and cover the pit to a high standard.
- > Ensure the film tucks in well where it meets the clamp walls.
- > Use high quality Visqueen silage sheeting to cover the clamp.
- > Sheets should be weighted down firmly.

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