



## Considerations when planning your home-attached greenhouse

  
**BC GREENHOUSE**  
BUILDERS LIMITED

## THE BENEFITS OF A HOME-ATTACHED GREENHOUSE

Convenient access to water and power and designed to maximize the heating benefits of your home, the home-attached is a must for those wanting to extend the season and enjoy the view into the garden. BC Greenhouse Builders offers a lean-to and a gable design for home-attached greenhouses. A **lean-to** is a roof that has a single slope with its upper edge adjoining a wall or building. A **gable-attached** greenhouse is a typical freestanding greenhouse with the gable end removed and attached to a wall.

BC Greenhouses offers several glazing options with a home-attached greenhouse which includes single tempered glass, twinwall and five-wall polycarbonate as well as double glass. Glazing options can be intermixed to optimize your additional growing or living space.



*Examples of lean-to (left), or gable-attached (below) designs.*



## LOCATION

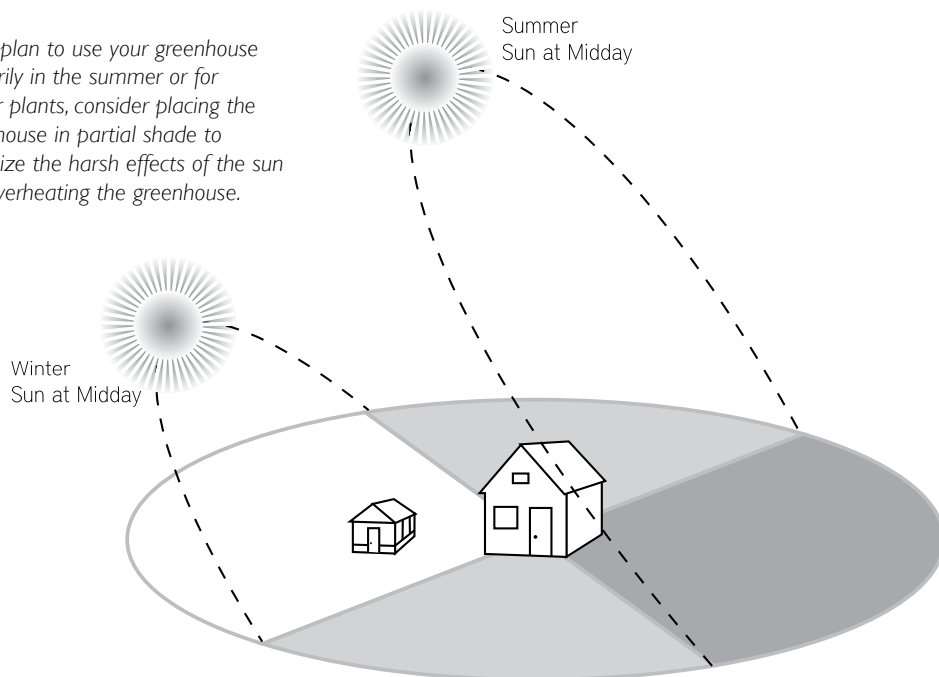
While the rule of thumb favors a straight southern exposure, it is best to remember that since you must protect greenhouses six to seven months a year with shade cloth to cut out excessive light with such an exposure, east or west can be desirable.

Many customers will use the greenhouse as solar gain to help heat their home in winter. There are several high performance glass options that help to control heat gain and provide a more comfortable living space should that be necessary such as high performance Low E glass and tinted glass.

### **What is high performance Low E glass?**

*High performance Low E glass is a coating put on one of the inside layers of the glass unit. The coating reflects the red spectrum of infrared light which are the warm rays that you feel in the sun. In a hot climate, it will keep it cooler inside and in a cold climate, it will also reflect the heat back into the greenhouse. Low E glass is an ideal covering for home-attached greenhouses that also act as living space.*

*If you plan to use your greenhouse primarily in the summer or for tender plants, consider placing the greenhouse in partial shade to minimize the harsh effects of the sun and overheating the greenhouse.*



GREENHOUSE LOCATION:  EXCELLENT  GOOD  POOR



## RIDGE HEIGHT

Consider the area where the greenhouse will be attaching.

Determine how much clearance exists between the ground and/or raised foundation and the eave or soffit area.

As a custom greenhouse manufacturer we can adjust your ridge height to fit snugly underneath your soffit or if you wish to attach into your roof line, we can jog the end walls around your eave.

## ATTACHING WALL

There are a number of important questions to ask about the attaching wall.

**Are there existing doors and/or windows that need to be built around?**

*For greenhouses longer than 12 feet, a truss is required for additional support and we will adjust the position based on the attaching wall.*

**Will you require a special section for an in-fill?** *We can extend the glazing wall to be flush with the side of your house/ building in cases where we attach to the outer fascia of your roof overhang. .*



*The attached greenhouse below has a four foot infill area to seal to the attaching wall.*



**Do you require an additional door placed in a gable end or the sidewall?**

*We can increase the sidewall height to accommodate our standard 74" door.*

**Are there access stairs to work around?** *We can build the greenhouse to suit a dropped foundation and/or a walk-in greenhouse.*

**What do you need for a foundation?** *A concrete foundation is recommended, since our greenhouses are a lifetime product and will last as long as your house.*

**HOW SHOULD YOU ATTACH YOUR GREENHOUSE?**

Our greenhouses are designed to install to the outside surface of an existing building and that could be siding, stucco, wood shakes or brick/ stone. We are frequently asked if the attaching wall will degrade faster than the other exterior walls of the building. In our experience, the temperature inside the greenhouse is a more controlled environment in terms of temperature and humidity and as such, the wall will not degrade as fast due to fewer fluctuations. People also ask if the extra humidity will cause rot or mould due to increased condensation. Increased condensation will be a problem for your wall and also harmful for your plants. Condensation can be easily controlled so that is not the case using standard ventilation procedures.

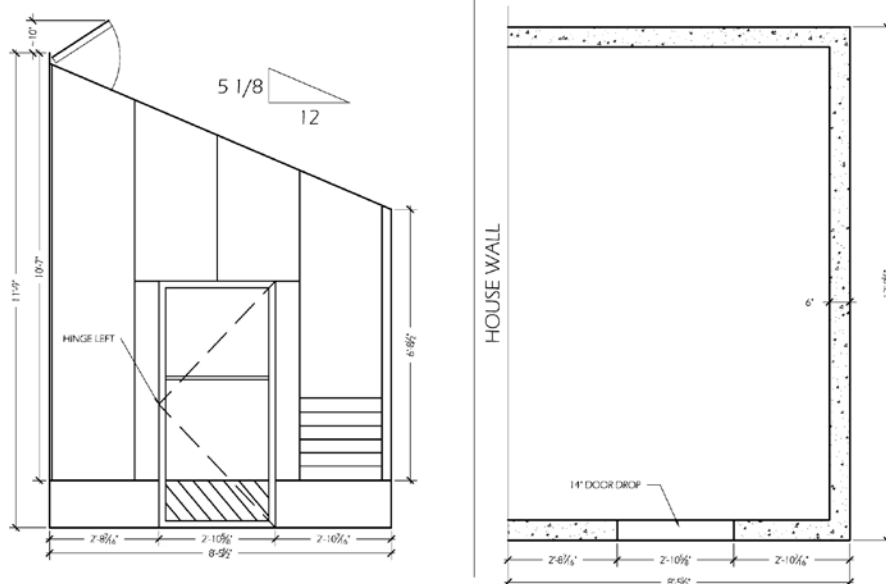


*A walkout basement is a common entry for a home-attached greenhouse.*

We provide the sealants to seal the greenhouses to your existing wall. In some situations it may be beneficial to provide a flashing detail and we will work out those connections with our clients for optimal conditions.

In the case of new construction, we recommend adding a trim board detail up against the new wall. It creates a great opportunity to have a perfectly sealed foundation and there is no need to add any flashing because the greenhouse is flush to the building.

**IMPORTANT:** When installing a greenhouse, we recommend having a clearance of at least 18" around the exterior of the greenhouse to install the glazing panels which need to be inserted from the outside and screwed into the aluminum frame.



**NEXT STEPS: WHEN YOU'RE READY TO BEGIN**

If you have an existing footprint that you'd like to incorporate, we can build to those dimensions. Please ensure that your foundation can be levelled and squared to provide the proper mounting surface for your greenhouse. You can supply us with your dimensions and preferably a photo of the area, we will happily mock up a design that will work for your needs.



*Installing a concrete foundation (below, bottom).  
Left: All done!*



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL US ANYTIME!**



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