

THREE STEPS TO A BEAUTIFUL SOD LAWN

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You can save 30-50% on your watering bills by adding compost.

1. **Soil preparation**

Remove rocks, sticks, weeds and any debris.

Grade your lot with the proper slope so rainfall and run-off drain away from your home.

The soil surface should be one inch below walks or driveways to allow for turf grass thickness.

Work the soil 4-6 inches with a rototiller if the surface is hard or compacted.

Rototill 3-5 yards of compost per 1,000 sq.ft. into the soil 4-6 inches deep before laying the turf grass.

Level and prepare the area for laying the turf grass.

2. **Installation**

LAY THE TURF IMMEDIATELY UPON DELIVERY

Begin laying the turf along a straight edge, such as a walk or driveway. Butt the joints together tightly but don't overlap the edges. Alternate each row so the joints are staggered, like rows of bricks.

Use a sharp knife to cut the turf so it can be shaped to fit around curves, etc.

START WATERING WITHIN 30 MINUTES AFTER THE TURF IS INSTALLED.

Continue installing and watering the turf.

AFTER JOB IS COMPLETED, WATER AGAIN THOROUGHLY.

3. **Care and Management**

Water new turf 4-5 times daily for 15 minutes each time. Continue this watering schedule for the first 10 days. You must keep the turf moist to develop the new root system. Avoid watering after 7 pm, as this can cause fungus to grow.

Do not overwater. If the grass is sitting in water for long periods of time then that is too much water. Short frequent watering is the secret to establishing sod.

After the first 10 days, cut back the watering to 3-4 times per week, depending on the weather.

If a blue or gray haze develops from lack of water, increase the watering time until the sod is completely established.

Wait to mow the lawn until after 7 days. Mow every week taking 1/3 of the leaf blade at a time. Mowing too low can burn the lawn and encourage weeds. Keep the mower blades sharp to ensure a clean cut.

Once the lawn is established it is best to water deeply and thoroughly once or twice per week. Water should penetrate six inches below the soil to encourage deep roots.

Maintain an adequate fertilizer program. We recommend using Helena 16-8-8 fertilizer or Safer Lawn Restore for a natural fertilizer. Both products have detailed instructions for use.

For Bermuda hybrid lawns you can over seed with Winter Rye seed in late summer or early fall. Cut the lawn shorter than normal, apply the seed and cover with 1/4 to 1/2 inch of compost. Water daily until the rye seed germinates. This will ensure a lush green lawn all winter. Skip this step if you do not need a green lawn in the winter and desire to save water.