

SOD INSTALLATION

1. Prepare soil

Loosen the top 6 to 8 inches of soil with a rototiller. Spread 2" of finished compost (this may be available for free if your town has a municipal compost centre). Add 2" to 3" of sand to clay-like soil to improve drainage. Till in amendments. Then, based on the results from your soil test, use a spreader to lay down the appropriate starter fertilizer, and then lime if needed.

2. Level the surface

Use an iron rake to knock down any high spots and fill in low spots so the soil is level and 1" below the grade of any paved surface, such as a walkway or driveway.

3. Lay the first row

Find the longest straight edge in your yard, such as a fence line. Unroll the first roll of sod along it. Keep off the sod while you are installing it, and rake out any footprints as you go. Smooth out loose areas or wrinkles, patting down the sod so it's flat against the soil underneath it, with no air pockets.



4. Lay subsequent rows

After laying the first row, use a knife to cut off half of the next piece so you can stagger the short seams, as you would in laying bricks. Again, make sure to butt sections of sod snugly against each other without overlapping them. Not only will seams be less noticeable this way but the edges will be less likely to dry out and die back. Use the knife to cut out holes for in-ground sprinkler heads as needed, and to trim pieces along planting beds and paved areas.

5. Water, water, water!

Water the installed lawn thoroughly, which also helps settle the soil. Try to keep foot traffic off the sod for a week. Water every day, preferably in the morning; during the heat of the day, you lose a lot of water to evaporation. And if you water at night, the sod goes to bed wet, which can encourage fungal disease. After the first week, cut back watering to every other day, tapering off to just twice a week by the third week. Then like any lawn, give it an inch of water a week, more during hot summer months.

WATERING

Give your new lawn at least ½" to 1" of water within ½ hour of new sod installation. Water daily, or more often, keeping turf moist until firmly rooted (2 weeks). Then less frequent and deeper watering should begin. Weather conditions will dictate the amount and frequency of watering. Be certain that your new lawn has enough moisture to survive hot, dry, or windy periods. Water areas near buildings more often where reflected heat dries the sod. *Take caution after a newly installed lawn whether its sod or seed and avoid heavy or concentrated use of your new lawn. This gives the roots an opportunity to firmly knit with the soil and insures that the turf will remain smooth and level.

MAINTENANCE

Your new sod lawn increases your property value significantly. With proper care, it will remain a great asset, providing beauty, a clean playing surface and an improved environment. Mow often, generally removing no more than 1/3 of the grass height. Keep your mower blade sharp! Fertilizer will depend on climate, sod type, soil, insects, weed and disease conditions. Ultra 3-D lawn will require less work, providing a beautiful Denser, Darker and Dwarfer lawn.

Once Established:

After approximately 90 days your new sod will be acclimated to its new home. Maintenance for established turf is different than during the Grow-In period: Reduce your watering times and reset your irrigation system for a maintenance type setting. Begin a regularly scheduled fertilizer program; keep in mind your new ultra-3D lawn will require less fertilizer and water to maintain its natural beauty. Begin a standardized mowing pattern only removing 1/3 of the leaf blade per mowing. Again, your new Ultra 3D lawn will require less mowing.