

How to Care for Sod

How to Water

New sod requires more water than an established lawn because its roots need consistent moisture. Water your new sod in the morning and the evening, when temperatures are cooler. Watering during the hottest parts of the day can burn your new grass. IF nature provides a good amount of rain - then you can skip that day of watering and resume water the very next day of no rain. Note:

During rainy weather - double check your sod to make certain it is getting enough rain. A light sprinkle is not enough rain to avoid watering.

- First 7-10 days, you must water, 2-3 times daily. Provide enough water to soak the first few inches of soil. Pay particular attention to the edges/seams as those areas dry out quickly.
- Second 7-10 days, reduce watering to 1 time daily, making sure to soak the top 1/4 inch of soil.
- After 3 weeks, you can reduce watering to every other day, soaking to a soil depth of about 1/2 inch.
- When your sod has been growing for about 4 weeks, the roots should be established enough to reduce watering to 1-2 times per week.
- If temperatures climb above 85 degrees at any point during the first four weeks, increase watering to 2-3 times per day to prevent drying.

When You Can Use It

Avoid walking on your new sod for at least 10 days.

- Keep foot traffic to a minimum for 3-4 weeks, particularly if conditions are overly dry or wet.
- New sod needs to establish its roots, and disturbance can affect the success of this process.
- If you must walk on the sod, use a different route each time so you are not treading on the same area.
- To prevent others from walking on your new lawn, mark a perimeter with stakes and string or tape.

When to Mow

New sod should not be mowed immediately.

- Mow your new lawn about 2-3 weeks after installation.
- Once the grass is about 3 inches tall, you can cut it high and only take off 1 inch.
 - Avoid cutting it too short. This also applies to your regular lawn.
 - Cutting any lawn too short will cause it to dry out and burn.
 - Make sure your mower blade is sharp, and never cut more than one-third of the blade length.

How to Fertilize

Most sod is fertilized prior to harvesting, so it usually does not need to be fertilized for at least 30 to 60 days after installation. Fertilizing before this time causes yellow patches in your lawn because the shallow root system of the sod can't absorb the nutrients, causing nitrogen to leach into the soil. After a minimum of 30 days:

- Apply a granular fertilizer with a nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium ratio of 16-16-16 at a rate of 6 1/2 pounds per 1,000 square feet of lawn, or 10-20-20 at a rate of 10 pounds per 1,000 square feet of lawn.
- Make sure to apply the fertilizer when the ground is dry and spread it evenly over the lawn.
- Water the lawn thoroughly after application.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding your sod, do not hesitate to call!

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