

The first watering of newly installed turf grass sod is the most important because it determines the longevity and performance of your grass. Here are some watering tips to get the most out of your new, beautiful lawn.

ON THE DAY OF SOD INSTALLATION

- Begin watering new turf within 30 minutes after it is laid on the soil.
- Apply at least 1" of water so that the soil beneath the turf is very wet.
- Ideally, the soil 3" to 4" below the surface will be moist.
- In dry or windy conditions, move your sprinklers often so that no area goes too long without water.
- Once you get through the first day, you can catch up on deeper watering in the evening and early morning.

FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS (or until the turf is well-rooted)

- Keep the below-turf soil moist with daily (or more frequent) watering of approximately ¼".
- Check the weather - Hot, dry and/or windy periods will necessitate increased watering amounts.
- Look for grass that is curling, taking on a needle-like appearance or turning purple / grey in color.
 - These are signs of dry turf and you should water immediately.

WATERING TIPS

#1: Pull back a corner of the turf and push a screwdriver or other sharp tool into the soil. It should push in easily and have moisture along the first 3" to 4"; if it doesn't, apply more water.

#2: Regardless of the type of sprinkler system you use (or lack thereof), make absolutely certain that water is getting to all areas of your new lawn. Corners and edges are easily missed by many sprinklers and are particularly vulnerable to drying out faster than the center portion of your new lawn. Also, areas near buildings dry out faster because of reflected heat.

#3: Runoff may occur on some soils and sloped areas before the soil is adequately moist. To conserve water and insure adequate soak-in, turn off the water when runoff begins, wait 30 minutes to an hour and restart the watering on the same area. Repeat as needed.

#4: Avoid pulling back a corner to check beneath the turf once it starts to knit its roots. It's harmful to the turf and can be difficult or impossible for you to pull back a corner. Instead, use a screwdriver or sharp tool to check the moisture by pushing it through the turf and into the soil.

#5: Water new sod in the early morning because the wind is low and there is less evaporation. Mid-day watering is not advised because most of the water will evaporate. If you wait until the evening, there's a higher risk of disease. Once your new sod is adequately rooted, gradually shift to watering practices for established lawns.

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