



New Sod Care

FIRST TWO WEEKS AFTER INSTALLATION

- ***Proper watering is essential*** to establishment (rooting) of your new sod. It's nearly impossible to over water new sod!
- As a general rule, ***keep sod and soil moist all throughout the day***. As much as ***2 to 6 sprinklings during the day*** (morning and afternoon) are required until sod begins to root. Adjust for location, sprinklers, and temperature.
- ***Stay off new sod until after the first mowing***.
- Try cutting back frequency of irrigations just before the first mow to firm up the soil.
- ***First mow is approximately 14 days*** after installation except in winter, which will require a longer time before the first mow.
- ***Mowing high is least stressful to the new sod***. Never mow off more than one-third of the grass blade.

THREE TO FOUR WEEKS AFTER INSTALLATION

- ***Re-adjust your watering clock or timer***. Reduce frequency of watering gradually after each mowing, while ***increasing minutes per watering***.
- ***Deeper, less frequent soakings will help roots*** grow down deeper and establish more quickly into the soil. Pull or tug on turf to check rooting.
- ***Fertilize your new sod lawn at one month*** to continue encouraging rooting and establishment.

TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

- **Sod not rooting?** – Most sod varieties will begin to root within 10 to 14 days. Check watering schedule and adjust to deeper, less frequent soaking. Excessive shade will slow down rooting.
- **Bluish-grey spots on lawn or footprints show after being walked on** – Drought stressed spots in the lawn. Try increasing minutes per watering and check or adjust sprinkler coverage.
- **Mushrooms?** – Temporary nuisance, usually growing in compost mixed into the soil at preparation. As waterings get deeper and less often, mushrooms usually dry up and wither away.
- **Edges turning brown and/or gaps between rolls?** – Sod is shrinking or has pulled up at the corners. *Due to lack of water!* Increase minutes per watering and frequency to minimize gaps. Also, hand watering sod will help shrink gaps. Press down edges with foot after watering.