



## **Installing Sod**

Installing sod is truly for those who enjoy immediate gratification.

If you've taken the time to prepare the soil for turf, sod installation should be relatively simple.

### **Final Grading and Fertilizing.**

Final grading (raking) can take place on the day of the sodding, or up to a week beforehand. Rake the soil so it is an inch and a half below the driveway or sidewalk and half an inch lower than the existing grass. It will also be necessary to remove sticks and rocks larger than 2 inches. Finally, apply four pounds of 10-25-18 fertilizer (per 1000 square feet). 6-24-24 can be used as a replacement fertilizer. Use a rake to level the soil for the last time, and to mix the fertilizer into the soil.

### **Where Do I Start and End My Lawn?**

It's really up to you. The key is to plan ahead to minimize the number of rolls you'll need to move after they have been laid. If your neighbors don't have grass yet, and there are no other boundary lines, make a straight line in the dirt, or use a string to make a straight edge. If your neighbors do have grass, make sure your sod is level with their grass by raking soil to or away from the edge of their lawn.

### **Sod Laying.**

Start by unrolling the sod, and placing it end-to-end to make a straight line. When you have come to the end of the line, place another roll of sod a few inches beside the row you just created. Unroll the turf, and slide the roll next to the row you just created. Do not overlap, or leave gaps. Stagger the ends of the rows to avoid long seams. On hills, lay the sod sideways across the hill, rather than up or down.

If you are laying sod in July or August or if the air temperature is greater than 85 degrees Fahrenheit water the soil for couple of minutes prior to installing the sod. The objective is to cool the soil off, not to create mud. Not doing this can slow up the rooting of the turf as long as six weeks.

### **Finishing Up.**

You may see your neighbors pulling small rollers behind their lawn tractors. Do not do this to freshly laid sod. It will pack the soil, and inhibit the new roots from penetrating the soil. Edges of sod rolls that do not butt up to anything should have a little dirt raked up to the exposed edge. This will keep the edge of the roll from drying out.

### **First Day Watering.**

Begin watering before you finish laying all of the sod. You can begin watering when you can do so without making a muddy mess in the areas that have not been sodded yet. Water each section long enough to apply half an inch of water. It generally takes 30 minutes or more to accomplish this. After a few hours, check the soil by pulling back one of the corners of the rolls to see if the dirt is moist. If the soil is not damp, water more. If you make deep footprints when walking across your lawn, the sod is wet enough.

### **Enjoy It!**

Step back and admire your beautiful sod. For further instructions, see Early Sod Care.

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