



Turf Installation & Initial Care **Best Practice Guidelines - Turfco**

Congratulations on preparing your area and selecting your turf variety!
Now it's time to install and most importantly, look after your new lawn.

The Turfco Best Practice Guidelines should be followed to ensure a successful lawn.
If you have any questions, please reach out to the Turfco team!

The first 6 weeks* after turf installation are crucial in ensuring the long-term success of your lawn. As turf has been taken from one environment on farm to a totally different one in your yard, it is a stressful process for your lawn so careful consideration needs to be taken to ensure it establishes quickly and healthily.

**Timing can vary depending on your turf variety and time of year your turf is laid.*

Turf Installation

- It is crucial you install your turf on the day of delivery.
- Use a starter fertiliser like Lawn Solutions Lawn Launcher.
- Start from the furthest point of entry and work your way back, being careful not to walk over freshly laid turf.
- Always butt the ends of your rolls tightly together, do not leave a gap in between.
- Use full rolls around hard surfaces like paths and fences as these dry out the fastest.
- Install turf in a brick-work pattern so that the joints of the rolls/slabs are staggered. This ensures turf establishes more evenly and prevents erosion.
- Install rolls across slopes.
- Use a sharp knife, garden shears or a spade to cut turf to fit odd shapes.
- It is best to use large pieces of turf to fill in gaps as opposed to several pieces where possible. Smaller pieces are more susceptible to drying out.
- If installing a large area on a day where temperatures are higher than 25 degrees, irrigate completed sections as you go.
- You can give newly installed turf a light roll once completed to encourage root to soil contact and level out area unevenness, however this step isn't a necessity.



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Caring For Your New Lawn

Watering:

- Immediate irrigation of your newly installed lawn is crucial. New lawns must not be allowed to dry out while they are establishing.
- If you are away from home, sprinklers and tap timers should be used.
- Traffic should be kept to a minimum until the lawn has established fully and has been mown 3-4 times.
- The amount you'll be required to irrigate a new lawn will depend on the time of year in which you install it. However, the most vital aspect is your new lawn should not be allowed to dry out for extended periods. If you get *sufficient* rainfall during the day, you will not need to irrigate your lawn until the next dry day.

During Establishment

- You should be watering 2-3 times per day at a minimum* (mornings & late afternoons are preferred) until the turf is fully established (when the turf won't pull up).
- Each application should be at least 5mm of irrigation. Use a water gauge to check how long this will be with your irrigation method. Aim for a total of 10-15mls per day.
- You don't need to flood your lawn, just be sure to keep the turf and the immediate underlying soil moist to touch.

After Establishment

- Once your lawn has established (or after its first few mows) watering should be deeper and less frequent. This will encourage good & strong deep roots.
- At this point in your lawn's life, aim for 25-30mls per week over 3-4 applications per week.
TIP: Place a glass cup on the area and water until the cup becomes half full. Move the cup to the un-watered parts and repeat this process. Make sure all areas of the turf receive an equal dosage.

*Water applications and timing can vary depending on water pressure, your turf variety, weather conditions and seasonal changes. It's recommended to use an automatic irrigation system or portable sprinklers such as a Wobble-Tee as they are more effective than hand watering methods.



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TIPS:

- Be aware of hot and windy weather as this can dry a new lawn out rapidly, so increase watering to compensate.
- Whenever you finish a watering application, dunk a tea towel in water and hang it on your clothesline. Once the towel is dry, your lawn is ready for another drink!

Establishment:

- Depending on the time of year and turf variety, your lawn will vary in the time it takes to establish. It is best to walk out every 3-4 days post installation and pull up the corners of the slabs gently. If they have established to the soil, it's time to mow. **Please note;** if you have installed TifTuf in summer this may occur after 5-6 days.
- The first mow should be on a high setting to be sure it does not scalp. Ongoing you should mow as required depending on your desired look. You should never take more than 1/3 of the leaf of during any one mow.
- An application of fertiliser should be made 5-6 weeks post installation or after your first mow if installed in cooler conditions.
- **Note:** it is normal for the corners of rolls to dry out in the first few weeks' post installation. If you are concerned, please contact the Turfco Team.

Timing	Watering Applications
Newly laid lawn (if turf rolls pull up from soil)	2-3 times per day
After first mow (if turf won't pull up form soil)	Every day (mornings preferred - before 9am)
After first 3 mows	Every second day (mornings preferred - before 9am)
An established lawn	As signs show or once per week

New lawns installed during the months of May - August will need constant watering until it is fully established in spring.



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Our Top Tips:

- Deep and infrequent watering of an established lawn promotes a healthy root system.
- Watering in mornings or late afternoon is best- when there is no wind and less chance of water loss due to evaporation. If you live in a humid area, avoid afternoon/early evening, and go for morning as evening watering can increase the risk of fungal diseases.
- Watering after mowing is preferred.
- Watch out for irrigation systems which may have a dry spot in corners.
- It's a great idea to spread water crystals in sandy soils before you lay your turf.
- Shady areas require less water.

Remember to fertilise on average **three times per year**, or every 8-10 weeks between the October long weekend & Easter. Aerate areas seasonally that receive regular traffic.

If you have any questions on lawn care or wish to learn more, visit the lawn care section of the Turfco website.

Contact the Turfco Team for more information or visit our website: turfco.com.au.



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