

Installation Guidelines

PLANNING

- The area for turf installation should be clearly defined and marked, if necessary.
- In this planning stage, it should be noted which direction the turf rolls will be laid out.
- **Always run the grain of the turf against any slope**, if possible.
- Also, note the borders of the turf and determine which edging or curbing technique will be used.

1. AREA PREPARATION

- a. Remove all grasses, sods, mulches, etc. from the marked area (Approx. 3” in depth)
- b. If you are landscaping around trees, shrubbery, flowers, light poles, utilities, etc., remember to mark around those areas and account for the turf edge configuration.
- c. **Remember to leave ample area uncovered around the bases of trees.**

2. SOIL COMPACTION

- a. It may be necessary to compact the native soil / subgrade prior to base construction.
- b. In the case where the native soils are soft and/or saturated, it is advisable to install a geotextile to separate the soft soils from the crushed stone base. Mirafi 140N or equal should suffice.
- c. As a rule of thumb, if there is standing water, or if water comes to the surface under foot, a geotextile should be used. If applicable, consult the engineer or architect of record.

3. BASE CONSTRUCTION

- a. A crushed gravel base layered should be spread evenly over the prepared area.
- b. If using heavy equipment to do so, the equipment should not drive directly upon the prepared site.
- c. **The crushed gravel should be a 20mm crushed gravel.** 20mm crushed gravel is available in most areas.
- d. The crushed gravel should be spread evenly, as smoothly as possible, and compacted to 90% proctor. A vibratory compactor will suffice on most small projects. A roller compactor may be necessary.
- e. The depth of this base course should be determined by the engineer or architect of record. As a rule of thumb, in arid climates such as Prairie Provinces, 3 inches of base course is sufficient. In climates with more rainfall or a higher water table, such as East and West coast Canada, 5 inches may be necessary.

4. LEVELING LAYER (IF NECESSARY).

- a. If the base course layer is not as smooth as desired, or there are undesired undulations, it may be necessary to add a layer of fines (lime stone or red shale) to fill in the low spots or create a smooth surface (Not necessary for most lawns, but is used on most putting greens) . **This layer should be kept to a minimum**, preferably no more than 2 inches. This layer must be compacted with a heavy roller. Do not use a vibratory compactor.

8. INFILL INSTALLATION

- a. In synthetic lawn applications, a drop spreader (commonly used to spread grass seed, fertilizer, lime, etc.) should be used to spread the infill in lifts ranging from to no greater than ½" depths. In between the spreading of lifts or layers, the fibers should be brushed upright with a plastic bristle industrial broom or a power-broom. This keeps all of the grass fibers erect and exposed. Fibers trapped underneath the infill may not ever be recovered.
- b. Do not use stiff steel bristle brooms that can damage the fiber.
- c. Be sure not to "dump" the infill in large quantities on the turf.
- d. If the borders or edges are to be secured, save the infill installation for these areas for last.
- e. Repeat the infill spread / fiber brooming process until the infill is evenly spread such that no more than ¾" of grass fiber tips are exposed above the level of the infill.
- f. Caution: Too much fiber exposed (not enough infill) will cause the fibers to mat or crush with heavy foot traffic. This will lead to premature wearing of the fiber and will void the manufacturer's warranty.**
- g. There may be more than one type of infill used. In many cases, a silica sand (20/40 blend is preferred), or silica sand and manufactured sand topdressing, may be used in layers. In either case, the silica sand is installed first, followed by the manufactured sand topdressing. Be sure to follow the site specifications outlining the amount or depth of each infill material. (For a basic lawn the 20/40 silica is used only and to about 2lbs per sq/ft. The top dressing sand is mainly used for putting greens)