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# **SOD INSTALLATION TIPS**

Thank you for choosing COUNTRY GREEN for your sod. By following the maintenance instructions below, your lawn will provide you with the beauty, value and results you desire.

**IMPORTANT: INSTALL THE SOD IMMEDIATELY AND BEGIN WATERING!  
DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT DAY.**

## **WATERING:**

Make sure your site is ready for installation as soon as the turf is delivered. Turf is a perishable product, and cannot survive on the pallet for any period of time. Prior to installation, water the soil ½” - 1” depth. Mist sod as each 300 – 600 square feet is installed. After installation is complete, water the entire site, heavily, until “soggy”. Water the sod to a soil moisture depth of 3 inches daily for the first 2 weeks. Keep the soil moist at all times during the first 2 weeks. Hot or windy days may require more frequent watering. New lawns require a consistent moist soil until well rooted. Lift the corner of a piece of newly installed sod after watering to check that water has penetrated to the soil. Be careful to apply water to the edges and corners of the lawn; and pay close attention to full sun areas and slopes as these areas will dry more quickly. Do not let the sod dry between watering.

Frequency and length of watering will depend on how warm and windy it is, and how rapidly the lawn dries out following each watering. Remember, the goal during the first week is to keep the sod and soil moist at all times.

## **HELPFUL HINTS ON INSTALLATION:**

The sod you have received from COUNTRY GREEN TURF is the finest you can possibly purchase. It has been delivered within 24 hours of harvesting in its full freshness and vigor, free of weeds, disease and insect infestation. But like any living plant that has been cut out of the ground, put on a truck, driven down the freeway and replanted at your location, it must now devote its energies to reestablishing itself with new root growth. It needs water to do this – please reread the watering instructions above.

- Apply fertilizer to the ground before laying sod (provided by Country Green Turf).
- If you have a sprinkler system, make sure it has head to head coverage so water application is uniform. This is critical as almost all sod failures are due to improper coverage of the irrigation system.
- Install the sod along a straight line (ie sidewalk, or stretched string).
- On very warm days, water the soil lightly as you go to reduce the soil’s surface temperature.
- Butt edges and ends to fit tightly against each other. This prevents drying out at the seams. Stagger the seams as though laying bricks. Where needed, trim sod with a sharp knife – a serrated knife works great.

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**AFTER LAYING THE SOD:**

- We cannot stress the proper watering program too much.
- Stay off your new sod for at least 14 days if possible.
- Mow as *soon* as the grass needs to be cut. (see below).
- Fertilize about 4 weeks after installation (see below).
- Control your pets. Urine spots and “foot printing” on soft soggy sod may cause permanent problems.

**TROUBLESHOOTING HINTS:**

**SOD NOT ROOTING:** Within 10 days your sod should have many roots emerging. If not, check your watering. **NOTE:** Sod in shade will root very slowly, if at all. Most turf grass requires 4 to 5 hours of full sun or an entire day of filtered light to successfully root and become established. Installing sod in heavily shaded areas is not recommended.

**BROWN SPOTS:** About 95% of the time when you see brown spots it is due to the lack of water. Check by pushing a screwdriver into the ground where the sod is green and then into the brown spot. If it is harder to push into the brown spot, you will know it is dry. Brown spots can also be caused by pets, areas that are not rooting or disease (fungus).

**MOWING:**

The first mowing should not be delayed, see below for recommendations. If the soil is too soft, from the increased watering required for new turf, wait to mow until the soil has dried some to reduce possible damage from footprints and mower wheels. Mow the turf to a height of 1 ½” to 2”. Mow often enough to avoid cutting more than 1/3 of the total grass height in any one cutting. If the lawn gets too tall, increase the cutting height and gradually decrease the setting over a couple mowings. Regular mowing helps thicken your lawn. Keep the mower blades sharp for a clean cut. Our turf produces minimum thatch, so thatching is not recommended. The clippings from a well nourished lawn are a good source of fertilizer when left in place. The clippings do not eliminate the need for additional fertilizer though. If the lawn gets tall between mowings, you should remove the clippings.

**FERTILIZING:**

Apply a balanced fertilizer such as 16-16-16 to the bare ground, and water in lightly, before installing your new turf. We recommend using a balanced fertilizer again about 4 weeks after the installation and then you can switch to a regular fertilizer maintenance program. This would include 4-6 applications of fertilizer per year. Fertilize the lawn when it is dry, then water thoroughly. This will reduce the chance of burning the grass.

Finally, we want your lawn to be a valuable asset to your home and we welcome your calls and questions to help in maintaining that objective.