

New Sod Watering Instructions

Time	Water	Signs to Look For
Day 1	Generously	Water until you see runoff. Check the soil to be sure water is penetrating
Day 2 - 14	1 inch / day	With a rain gauge, measure the water for best results. Water 1-2 times per day, a heavy watering. Usually 1 hr per day depending on your irrigation system.
Day 15 - 19	Every other	Water 1/2 inch every other day. If you see signs of wilting, water more.
Day 20 - Beyond	1 inch / week	Once the roots have established, gradually come down to 1 inch per week (ideally all in 1 day).

Day One

Whether your sod is brand new, or you have a mature, established lawn, your grass WILL require more water in order to remain healthy and unstressed during hot weather! When installing sod, install as soon as possible for best results. Allowing sod to sit on a pallet during hot weather may reduce quality of appearance. Do not water sod while it is sitting on the pallet. Water the ground before you lay the pieces of sod down. Then, water on top of the sod as soon as you can following installation. You want to give it a big, heavy soaking. Remember, it has just been cut out of its home, and now it is establishing a brand new root system in yours. It will need PLENTY of water to drink!

Water Deeply

Don't set yourself up for failure with short, unproductive watering sessions. In the beginning of your new sod's life, it needs to be drenched in water. Water deeply for the first 2 weeks, or until you can feel that the sod has rooted in. Pull on corners of the pieces, and over time it should be more and more difficult to pull up. Use your best judgement. Water as much as you can within reason. Then slowly back off after 2 weeks. Mature, established lawns like 1 inch of water per week. "Water deeply, and infrequently." When you water deeply, you train the roots of the grass to dive down to find the water. This promotes lower and deeper growth of the root system. What's the harm in short sessions? Well, when you only water for 10 minutes at a time, and then again and again, the water stays towards the top of the soil. The roots have no reason to grow deeper, because they know they'll get a little drink soon enough. So, this may result in a shallow root system.

Do I need a sprinkler system? Do I need Irrigation?

If you're installing a few thousand square feet of new sod, one handheld hose might not be sufficient. We recommend in ground irrigation above all else, but if that's not in the stars for you, be sure you are getting full coverage of your lawn with your sprinkler. Be sure that the sprinkler is putting water ON your lawn, not just ACROSS the lawn. We'd hate to see all that water end up in your neighbor's plants and trees! Still unsure of water coverage? Put out a rain gauge or an empty tuna can. When you reach 1 inch, that's enough water for 1-2 days for brand new sod. 1 inch is enough water for the week for established sod.

Don't Leave Town with New Sod!

Going on vacation soon? WAIT! Be sure you think about how to keep your new sod watered before you plan to be away for several days. Perhaps ask a neighbor to water the lawn on a schedule. New sod needs TLC! New sod should be watered heavily for at least 14 days or until rooted. This can vary depending on the weather. If we are having a typical, hot Georgia June and July, you may need to water heavily for 14-21 days. Don't skip out early! Even if you water for a week, if you don't continue to water deeply, your sod could show signs of damage and stress like the one in this photo. A classic sign of under-watering is visible seams that won't fill in.

Water All The Zones

"Honey, why is only the middle of the lawn green? Why are the edges all crispy?" Be sure to get FULL COVERAGE when you water your lawn! When working with a landscape pro or irrigation installer, they should have the know-how to set up zones for full coverage. They will also be able to help you time these zones for the proper time of year. If you don't have in ground irrigation, you will need to put in the elbow grease to move the sprinkler around for full coverage. Dry, thirsty grass will turn greyish-green and will be brittle and thin. Use your best judgement. When the grass looks thirsty, water it!



Water generously for the first 2 weeks.
Once roots are established, water deeply about once per week.