

New Sod Watering Instructions

Day	Water	Signs to Look For
Day 1	Generously	Water heavily. Check to be sure water penetrates down through the soil 2 inches - a thorough soaking
Day 2 - 14	1/2 inch / day	Measure water with a rain gauge for best results. Water 1-2 times per day. Avoid watering 12pm-3pm.
Day 15 - 19	Every other	Water 1/2 inch every other day. If you see signs of wilting, water more.
Day 20 - Beyond	1.5 inch / week	Once the roots have established, gradually come down to 1 - 1.5 inches water per week.

Day One: Immediate Installation

For optimal results, install your new sod as soon as possible, ideally within 12 hours of delivery. Leaving sod on a pallet in hot weather can negatively impact its appearance. Avoid watering the sod while it's still on the pallet. This is unnecessary and can cause the pieces to be slippery during installation. Before laying the sod, water the ground. After installation, immediately give the sod a deep, thorough watering.

Remember, new sod doesn't have a fully developed root system. It needs plenty of water to establish new roots in your soil.

Water Deeply

Water deeply for the first two weeks, or until the sod feels firmly rooted. To check, try gently pulling on a corner of the sod. It should become increasingly difficult to lift as the roots grow deeper. After 2-3 weeks, gradually reduce watering. Your sod will be mature and established in 6-12 months. Mature, established lawns typically need about an inch of water per week. For these lawns, water deeply and infrequently. Deep watering encourages roots to grow deeper into the soil, promoting a healthier lawn. Avoid short, frequent watering sessions. Watering for just a few minutes at a time can lead to shallow roots, as the water doesn't penetrate deep enough. This can make your lawn more susceptible to drought and other issues.

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

If your lawn is 5,000 square feet or larger, a single handheld hose might not be enough to water it efficiently. The best option is to install an in-ground irrigation system. However, if that's not feasible, make sure your sprinkler covers your entire lawn. Not sure if your sprinkler is providing enough water? Place a rain gauge or an empty tuna can in the lawn. Once it collects half an inch of water, that's enough to water brand new sod for 1-2 days. After 6-12 months, established sod will need about an inch of water per week.

Don't Leave Town with New Sod!

It's important to plan ahead for watering. New sod needs consistent moisture for the first few weeks. New sod should be watered deeply for at least 14 days, or until it takes root. The exact watering time may vary depending on the weather. In hot summer months like June and July, you might need to water more heavily for the first 14-21 days. Don't stop watering early! Even if you water for a week and then stop, your sod could suffer damage. One sign of underwatering is visible seams between the sod pieces.

Ensure Full Lawn Coverage

Is only part of your lawn green? Are the edges brown or crispy? To keep your entire lawn healthy, make sure you're watering it evenly. If you have an irrigation system, a professional can set up zones to ensure full coverage and adjust watering times for different seasons. If you use a sprinkler, you will need to move it around to water all areas of your lawn.

Watch for signs of dryness. If your grass looks or feels brittle, gray-green, or thin, it needs more water.



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