



NEW SOD WATERING GUIDE

Congratulations on your new sod installation! Here is a list of some frequently asked questions that we get regarding watering your new sod. If you have further questions, feel free to give us a call.

When do I water new sod?

Begin watering your new sod as soon as it is laid. Sod has a short shelf life and it can dry out and die in hot weather. It is important to be prepared on the day of your sod install.

How do I water my sod on the first day?

It will take a lot of water to thoroughly saturate new sod and the soil underneath it. The ultimate goal is to keep the sod and soil saturated to a depth of 4 inches for the first two to three weeks. Any sod that turns brown is lacking water and needs extra attention.

How do I water my sod after the first day?

During the first two to three weeks, sod needs daily watering. In hot or windy weather, it may need a light watering in mid and late afternoon hours when water use and evaporation is greatest.

After 7 to 10 days, check for root development by firmly grasping the grass blades with both hands and lifting vertically. When the sod resists being lifted, the frequency of irrigation should be reduced but the amount of water applied during each irrigation cycle should be increased.

How do I care for my lawn when it is established?

After a two to three week period, your sod should be rooted into the soft, moist soil below. Now you can adjust your watering so that your lawn receives one inch of water per week. It is best to water in the morning and water deeply and infrequently rather than a little each day to encourage deep rooting.

When is it safe to mow new sod?

When your sod has been kept moist and developed deep roots (usually three to four weeks), you can reduce your watering routine. Allow the lawn to dry out. Now it is ready for its first mowing. Be sure your mower is set to its highest setting and bag the clippings the first several times you mow. Never remove more than one third of the height of the grass at a time.

Should I fertilize my new lawn?

Yes. Just like every living thing, turf needs food to survive. Apply an appropriate starter fertilizer to the lawn four to six weeks after installation. Also apply a second application at eight to ten weeks. Lincoln Landscaping also offers a five step fertilization program to keep your lawn looking great year round.

What other tips will help my new lawn thrive?

In addition to following sound irrigation, mowing, and fertilization practices, regular aerating can significantly improve turf grass rooting. Weeds are usually not a problem with sod, and most herbicides are not labeled for application to new sod. If weeds such as crabgrass become problematic, it is better to tolerate the problem until the following spring when a pre-emergent herbicide can be applied. Broadleaf weeds, such as dandelions, can be controlled by spot treating with a broadleaf herbicide.