

Professional Guide: Artificial Turf Installation & Maintenance

1. Pre-Installation: Site Preparation & Base Construction

A properly prepared base is critical for the longevity, drainage, and appearance of your artificial lawn.

Excavation: Remove existing grass, weeds, and topsoil to a depth of approximately 70-100mm (3-4 inches). Ensure the subgrade is firm and stable.

Weed Barrier: Lay a geotextile weed membrane over the entire excavated area to prevent weed growth.

Sub-Base: Install a compacted base layer of crushed stone or aggregate (e.g., limestone, granite, or MOT Type 1). This layer should be approximately 50-75mm (2-3 inches) thick after compaction.

Grading & Compaction: Grade the base material to achieve a slight slope (a minimum 1% fall is recommended) for surface water runoff. Thoroughly compact the base using a mechanical plate compactor to create a firm, stable, and level surface. The final base should be 25-30mm (approx. 1 inch) below any surrounding hardscapes (e.g., paving stones, edging) to accommodate the turf pile height.

2. Turf Installation

Unrolling & Positioning: Unroll the artificial turf and let it acclimate and relax in the sun for 1-2 hours. Position the turf rolls, ensuring the pile direction (nap) is consistent for a uniform appearance. Allow for a slight overhang at the edges.

Seaming: Where multiple rolls are required, ensure the edges are trimmed straight and the turf blades are aligned. Use specialized seaming tape and artificial turf adhesive. Apply adhesive to the tape as per the manufacturer's instructions, then carefully join the two sections, ensuring no grass blades are trapped in the seam. Do not overlap the turf backing.

Trimming & Securing: Use a sharp utility knife to trim the turf precisely to fit the perimeter. Secure the turf to the base using 100-150mm (4-6 inch) galvanized or non-corrosive turf nails or staples, spaced approximately 300-400mm (12-16 inches) apart along the edges and seams. On slopes or in high-traffic areas, increase the frequency of fastening.

3. Infill Application & Final Grooming

Infill is essential for supporting the grass fibers, providing stability, and ensuring proper drainage.

Application: Using a drop spreader or a stiff broom, evenly apply a silica sand or specialized rubber/sand infill mix across the surface. The typical application rate is 5-8 kg per square meter.

Brushing: After the initial infill application, use a power broom or a stiff-bristled push broom to vigorously brush the turf fibers upright. This allows the infill to settle to the base of the pile. Apply a second, lighter layer of infill and brush again to achieve an even, natural look.

4. Usage & Maintenance Guidelines

Proper care will maximize the lifespan and aesthetic appeal of your artificial lawn.

Regular Cleaning:

Remove leaves and debris regularly using a plastic leaf rake, a stiff brush, or a leaf blower.

Rinse the surface periodically with water to remove dust and pollen.

Brushing: To keep the fibers upright and prevent matting, brush the turf monthly (more frequently in high-traffic areas) against the pile direction.

Spill Management: Most common spills can be rinsed away with water. For more stubborn stains, a mild detergent diluted with water can be used. Always rinse thoroughly.

Prohibited Items: Avoid sharp objects, hot barbecue embers, and corrosive chemicals. Do not use metal-tined rakes or shovels on the surface.

Pet-Friendly Care: Solid waste should be removed as from a natural lawn. For liquid waste, simply rinse the area with water. The turf's permeable backing and base allow for efficient drainage and odor control.

Snow & Ice: If necessary, snow can be removed with a plastic shovel. Avoid metal shovels and chemical de-icers, as they can damage the fibers. Allow ice to melt naturally where possible.