



# Care and Maintenance Manual

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## Introduction

Thank you for choosing AstroLawn®. Even though your AstroLawn® does not require the traditional maintenance of natural grass, there are maintenance procedures that can help protect your investment and extend the useful life of your AstroLawn® brand turf.

The following procedures are important in helping to preserving your turf.

- **Keep it clean**
- **Brush periodically**
- **Do not abuse**
- **Report any problems promptly to Home Depot directly at 1-800-HomeDepot ext. 231**

## Cleaning and Stain Removal

### I. KEEP IT CLEAN

#### A. Dust, pollen, and airborne pollutants

Rainfall is the best cleanser. In areas where rainfall is scarce, an occasional water flush is beneficial to cleanse the turf. For lightly soiled areas, it may be necessary to sponge mop with a five (5) percent solution of low sudsing household detergent in hot water followed by a thorough rinsing with hot water. For heavily soiled areas, repeat procedure for lightly soiled areas follow with sponge mopping using a three (3) percent solution of household ammonia in hot water followed by a thorough rinsing with hot water.

#### B. Stains and other blemishes

The first rule is promptness. It is always easier to clean up a fresh spill than one that has dried and hardened. Remove any solid or paste-like deposit with a spatula or table knife. Blot up excess liquids with paper towels, a clean cloth, or a dry absorbent, such as kitty litter or fuller's earth. (Fuller's earth is an absorbent claylike earthy material and is often found as a component of kitty litter.) Dry absorbents can then be swept or vacuumed up afterwards.

Synthetic fibers have good resistance to staining. However, it is important to realize they are only one part of a sophisticated system of various components designed for overall performance. Some cleaning agents safe for the face fibers can be harmful to other components of the turf system. Therefore, cleaning agents are grouped into two sets, one of which can be used in liberal amounts directly on the turf surface, and the second of which should only be applied by rubbing a cloth soaked in the cleaner in order to minimize penetration of possible harmful agents below the turf surface. In the first group of cleaners which generally can be applied without any special precautions are the following:

- Simple Green bio-friendly cleaner. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- A warm, mild solution of granular household detergent or any low sudsing detergent for fine fabrics. Use approximately one teaspoon to one pint of water. This will handle most waterborne stains including:

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Coffee           | Ketchup      |
| Tea              | Butter       |
| Fruit juices     | Alcohol      |
| Vegetable juices | Cola         |
| Milk             | Water colors |
| Cocoa            | Latex paint  |
| Ice Cream        | Blood        |
| Mustard          | Urine        |
| Glue             | Dye          |

- A three (3) percent solution of ammonia in water may be used in lieu of household detergent for more stubborn stains.
- Do not use cleaners that contain chlorine bleaches or caustic cleaners (ph above 9) or highly acidic cleanses (ph below 5)
- Rinse area thoroughly with clean cold water to remove any traces of soap or ammonia
- Blot up excessive liquid

The second group of cleaners must be applied sparingly with care taken to avoid penetration of the agent beneath the turf are the following:

- Mineral spirits or a grease spot remover like perchlorethylene (dry cleaning solution) of the type sold by most variety stores and supermarkets. In general, cleansers in this category should handle most oil-based stains including:

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Asphalt and tar    | Chewing gum  |
| Cooking oil        | Shoe polish  |
| Floor wax          | Lipstick     |
| Motor oil & grease | Paraffin wax |
| Ballpoint ink      | Nail polish  |
| Suntan oil         | Crayon       |

**Caution: Mineral spirits and other petroleum based solvents are flammable. Do not smoke or permit open flames near where these are being used.**

**Be sure the area is well ventilated where solvent cleaners are used.**

#### C. Animal waste

Although all AstroLawn® products are pet friendly, there is additional maintenance necessary to keep odors to a minimum. Allow waste to dry and then dispose. If rainfall is not frequent in your region, hose down the pet area regularly to promote the drainage of urine and keep the

surface clean. Consider use of products such as Simple Green or Nature's Miracle that are pet safe. Depending on the amount of usage and number of dogs, enzyme neutralizers may also be helpful to control odors. Neutralize with mixture of white distilled vinegar in an equal amount of water. Flush thoroughly with water after application.

D. Mineral Deposits

Apply a mixture of white distilled vinegar in an equal amount of water to grass and lightly brush. Flush thoroughly with water after application.

E. Chewing gum or Tree Sap

In addition to dry cleaning fluid, chewing gum and tree sap can be removed by freezing. Aerosol packs of refrigerant are available from most carpet cleaning suppliers for this purpose, or dry ice can be used. After freezing, scrape with a knife.

F. Fungus or mold spots

A one (1) percent solution of hydrogen peroxide in water can be sponged on to the affected area. Flush thoroughly with clean water after application.

G. Oil paints and more difficult stains

Please consult your Home Depot associate as these may require a commercial carpet cleaner.

**Caution! Do not use high-pressure water spray with stream force in excess of 300 psi as this can severely damage the turf.**

## Brushing

### II. PERIODIC BRUSHING

The frequency for suggested brushing is directly related to the amount of foot traffic you have in your turf area. Matting of fibers may occur in areas of high foot traffic, especially if fibers have become soiled with dirt and other airborne pollutants.

Periodic "cross brushing" of the turf with a Grandi Groomer rake can help restore the aesthetic appearance of the turf. "Cross brushing" means all brushing activity takes place against the grain, nap, or sweep of the turf fibers. By brushing against the turf, the fibers are "fluffed up". A brush with synthetic bristles should be used. The use of a Grandi Groomer is highly recommended.

**Caution! Never use a brush with metal or wire bristles as these will change the turf fibers.**

Take note to heavier trafficked areas for matting of fibers that might appear different than other areas that do not see heavy traffic. Brushing these areas is highly recommended, as it will ensure the full life of your AstroLawn®. Brushing with a carpet rake or nylon bristle broom cannot hurt the turf, so brush as often as needed, again keeping in mind that the more traffic, the more frequent the brushing.

High traffic areas might include but are not limited to:

- Commercial Applications
- Multiple dogs
- Heavy play activity by children
- Paths in the yard that are traveled often

## Protect Your Grass

Although your AstroLawn® brand turf is made of tough, durable fibers, certain precautions should be taken to prevent damage to the turf.

- Ensure that your AstroLawn® is not exposed to reflected sunlight from windows, metallic or other reflective items as this may fuse the turf fibers together.
- Lighted cigarettes cannot ignite the turf, but they can damage the turf by fusing the tips of the fibers together. Cigarettes, fireworks, and open flames should be kept away from the turf.
- Furniture and equipment with sharp or jagged edges should not be placed on turf as this may puncture or tear the turf.
- Never leave a parked vehicle idling on the turf.
- Cap off or remove nearby sprinkler heads. Water from sprinkler systems can leave mineral deposits on turf that may cause discoloration.

**Caution! It is critical you ensure that your AstroLawn® is not exposed to reflected sunlight from windows, metallic, or other reflective items as this may fuse the turf fibers together.**

### III. REPORT ANY ISSUES/PROBLEMS

Minor problems can become major problems if not corrected quickly. Any problem should be reported promptly to a Home Depot associate.

### IV. CONCLUSION

The proper care and maintenance program can enhance the aging, usefulness, and aesthetics of your AstroLawn® brand turf. This manual attempts to encounter and answer the most frequently asked questions regarding your AstroLawn®. However, there are always unanticipated questions or needs so do not hesitate to call 1-800-HomeDepot, ext 231.

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