



DIY - HOW TO GUIDE LAYING INSTANT TURF

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General information on turf type and laying of turf for a Do It Yourself option (not including Fescue)

PRE-PREPARATION

If there is any existing lawn or weeds present in the area you are wanting to turf you will need to remove it. We recommend using glyphosate in a spray pack, ensuring to follow instructions, wear the appropriate safety gear, and wash pack well after use. Spraying should be done 2-4 weeks before laying new turf.

CHOICE OF TURF

There are several different types of turf to choose from, including Kikuyu, Buffalo, Couch, Bermuda and Tall Fescue. When choosing the most appropriate type for you, consider maintenance, feel, appearance, access to full sun or shade, traffic, and your budget. One of the most popular turfs we supply is kikuyu as it is great for a full sun area, it stays green all year round, and is hardy and drought tolerant. If the area has up to 50% shade, then our TifTuf Bermuda or RTF Tall Fescue are good options. For more shaded areas, buffalo variety would be best as it can take up to 70% shade. For more detailed information on each lawn type check the Lawn section of our website.

HOW MUCH TURF

All turf is supplied in metres squared. For a square or rectangle area measure the length and width, then multiply ($L \times W = m^2$). For other shaped areas, we have a more detailed breakdown on measurements in the Guides section of our website.

SOIL PREPARATION, LAYING, AND WATERING

Once the area is cleared of existing lawn, weeds, and any other rocks or debris, you will need to dig out the area by 50-100mm. The soil base of your area will now need to be loosened using a rotary hoe, adding in some organic fertiliser or, if you have hard, compacted soil, with high amounts of clay, add in some gypsum. Level off the soil and infill with some good quality loam. We recommend the Mt Compass Turf Mix or Sandy Loam, depending on whether you need a sand/soil mix of 80/20 or 60/40. When doing the soil preparation, leave 30-40mm below the height you want, to allow for your turf. You can also apply a starter fertiliser on top if you choose. Ensure your prepared area is raked, levelled, and rolled to create a perfectly level surface, and that any fertiliser is well integrated so not to touch the roots directly.

Now you are ready for your turf. Note that if it is a hot day you will need to water the soil well before laying. Start at one end of your area and work your way across. Lay the turf in a staggered pattern, like bricks, and keep the edges pushed close against each other. Take care to avoid leaving gaps or overlapping. You can trim any excess using a large knife, we have found bread knives to work the best, and leave any cut shapes until last. Once all pieces are down it is best to roll the turf to help the roots reach the new soil.

Turf must be immediately watered after laying, then daily for the first week, and can be cut back gradually to every second day during the second week. Make sure to give the lawn a good soak so that the water reaches the soil underneath. You may need to give extra watering during warmer months, or in extreme hot weather. It is important to not let the turf dry out before it knits into the ground, which can take at least two weeks, or up to 2 months during the cooler months.

IRRIGATION

If you are also planning to install an irrigation system you will need to place it at least 100mm below the turf. Subsurface should be placed 30cm apart for best watering results. Pop-up placement will depend on water pressure, sprinkler type, and area size. For best results you will mainly need to ensure there are overlapping spray patterns. Soil will then go on top, and the turf laid, as per above method.

AFTERCARE

Ongoing care and maintenance of your new lawn will be dependant on your turf type and the season. For detailed information see your lawn's product guide in the Natural Lawn section of our website.

Thank you for choosing us.

AKERS OF LAWN