DOCTOR'S
Lawn and Landscape
Inspired by nature... Created by Doctor's

PROPER MATERIAL DEPTH

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PROPER MATERIAL DEPTHS

Using the proper amount of mulch, decorative rock, and topsoil is important for both the appearance and long-term health of your landscape. Too little material may not provide the intended benefit, while excessive material can create drainage, grading, or plant health problems.

MULCH

A properly maintained mulch layer helps conserve soil moisture, regulate soil temperature, reduce weed growth, and give landscape beds a finished appearance.

- Maintain approximately **2–3 inches of total mulch depth** in most landscape beds
- Check the depth of existing mulch before adding additional material each year
- Avoid continually layering new mulch over old material if adequate depth already exists
- Keep mulch pulled back slightly from tree trunks and the base of shrubs and perennials
- Never mound mulch against tree trunks or create a “mulch volcano”
- If old mulch has become excessively deep or compacted, remove or loosen material before adding a fresh layer



DECORATIVE ROCK

Decorative rock provides a durable, low-maintenance surface for landscape beds, but proper depth is important for appearance and weed suppression.

- Maintain approximately **2–3 inches of rock** for most landscape applications
- Larger stone may require additional depth to provide consistent coverage
- Account for existing rock before adding additional material
- Landscape fabric may be used beneath decorative rock where appropriate
- Keep rock from accumulating directly against tree trunks, plant stems, siding, or other sensitive surfaces





TOPSOIL

Unlike mulch and rock, there is no single recommended depth of topsoil for every application. The amount needed depends on whether it is being used for grading, turf preparation, planting, or improving an existing bed.

- Use enough topsoil to create the desired finished grade without burying existing plants or tree root flares
- Maintain positive drainage away from structures whenever possible
- Avoid adding excessive soil over established tree root systems
- Do not pile soil against tree trunks, siding, foundations, or other structures
- Allow for settling when establishing new grades
- For lawn or planting preparation, loosen or blend new soil into the existing soil when practical rather than creating a sharp layer between the two

ESTIMATING BULK MATERIAL

Mulch, decorative rock, and topsoil are commonly sold by the cubic yard.

Square Feet × Desired Depth (inches) ÷ 324 = Approximate Cubic Yards Needed
Quick Coverage Reference

1 cubic yard covers approximately:

- 1" deep: 324 sq. ft.
- 2" deep: 162 sq. ft.
- 3" deep: 108 sq. ft.
- 4" deep: 81 sq. ft.

Actual quantities may vary based on settling, compaction, existing material, surface conditions, and the type of material being installed.

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