SOD ESTABLISHMENT & CARE GUIDE

Proper watering during the first few weeks after installation is the most important factor in successful sod establishment. Newly installed sod requires close monitoring until roots become established into the soil below.

INITIAL WATERING & ESTABLISHMENT

- Water sod thoroughly immediately after installation
- Keep sod consistently moist during the first 2–3 weeks
- Irrigation systems are typically set to run short, frequent watering cycles during establishment
- Additional watering may be needed during hot, dry, or windy weather
- Dry spots should be addressed promptly before sod begins shrinking or separating

TRANSITIONING TO NORMAL WATERING

- After approximately 2–4 weeks, watering frequency should gradually be reduced
- Transition toward deeper, less frequent watering cycles
- Sod is generally considered established once it firmly resists being gently pulled upward
- Irrigation controllers should eventually be adjusted back to a more typical seasonal watering schedule
- Continuing establishment watering too long can lead to shallow rooting, fungus, or overwatering issues

MOWING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Avoid mowing for approximately 1-3 weeks after installation
- Newly established turf should be dry enough to support mower traffic without causing rutting or damage
- Sod should feel firmly rooted before mowing
- Avoid mowing soft or saturated areas
- Always mow with a sharp blade
- Avoid removing more than one-third of the grass height at one time

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

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FERTILIZATION & LAWN HEALTH

- Proper fertilization helps encourage healthy root development, color, and turf density
- Once established, ongoing fertilization and lawn care treatments can help maintain long-term lawn health and appearance

SIGNS OF STRESS

Monitor newly installed sod closely for:

- Wilting or curling grass blades
- Brown or gray discoloration
- Drying or separating seams
- Areas drying out faster than surrounding turf
- Soft, saturated, or persistently wet areas

IMPORTANT NOTES

Underwatering and inconsistent watering are among the most common causes of sod failure during establishment. If you notice potential issues or have questions regarding irrigation settings, watering schedules, or sod health, please contact our team promptly so adjustments can be made if necessary.





