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STEP BY STEP DIY ARTIFICIAL GRASS INSTALLATION GUIDE

You may need:

Turf Cutter (as an alternative to lifting old turf with a spade) and perhaps a vibrating compactor plate
Geo-Textile weed barrier
Timber frame and stakes or long galvanised staples
Shovel, saw, rake, stiff brush, Stanley knife and spare blades
Small galvanised nails or screws and 3" galvanised screws (decking screws will do)
Sharp sand (or MOT Type 1 aggregate, if required), and possibly kiln dried silica sand
Special adhesive and seaming tape (available from **Scotgreens**)

1. Assess how much grass you will need, remembering that the turf comes in 4 metre widths. Within reason, enough grass should be bought to minimise the number of joins. Mark off the area to be measured - it can help to mark it with line marking paint or sand, as this helps to show exactly how the grass will lie. Decide whether a sand sub-base will do or if Type 1 aggregate is needed.
2. Remove the grass sod by hand for smaller areas or using a turf cutter for larger areas. If there is no existing natural turf on the area then clear the site as appropriate.
3. You should compact the ground using a vibrating plate which can be hired from an equipment hire centre. However, very small areas can be compacted by hand using the back of a spade or a hand tamp.
4. Now you are ready to put in the area's frame if you choose to do so. We recommend 3"x2" tanalised, treated timber. Apply the timber around the perimeter of the project area, hammer the wooden stakes into the ground and secure the stakes to the frame with galvanised nails or screws.
5. Fill your frame to level with sharp sand and/or Type 1 aggregate and compact again using a vibrating plate.
6. When your base is as level as you need it to be after compacting and raking/screeding, secure the geo-textile weed barrier. Tack to the surrounding frame using the small nails or staples, or use plastic fabric pegs.
7. Now you are ready to lay your turf. Lay the artificial grass on top of the sand (as opposed to dragging it onto the base material) and leave for around 2 to 3 hours to settle. This helps stop any wrinkling or creasing. If joining please refer to joining instructions below. Cut and trim your artificial grass, using the sharp Stanley knife. Never use a blunt blade.
9. When the turf has settled and you are happy with the level, screw the turf to the perimeter framework using galvanised screws at around 12 inch intervals. You can also glue the grass to the frame.
10. For a sand-filled grass, when the turf is down use silica sand which is kiln dried (sometimes called block paving sand) to infill the grass. This helps to weigh the turf down, protects it from excessive crushing and lets the fibres stand upright more easily. Please note you must get an even spread over the turf. This can be applied with a fertiliser spreader or by hand. Brush the sand into the grass against the pile using a stiff-bristled brush. This step is obviously not required for non sand-filled grasses.

Tips

It is not essential to use a geotextile weed barrier but it is recommended

We recommend screwing the turf down with galvanised screws, as they won't rust and the turf can be easily lifted if required.

The turf requires minimal maintenance, a light brushing to remove debris every now and then is recommended.



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ARTIFICIAL GRASS JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

How to use adhesive and backing tape:

If you are doing a large area or awkward cuts you may need to join two or more pieces of turf together. This is straightforward but you must lay out your joins before applying tape and glue to ensure the joint is tidy. Please note it is easier and more forgiving to join longer pile turfs. Wherever possible, joins across the roll should be avoided. Although you may have to buy a little more grass, always try to work with joins up the length of the grass roll.

1. Once groundwork is complete unroll the two surfaces that require to be joined and place them side by side, ensuring the pile runs in the same direction. Please note it is easier and more forgiving to join longer pile turfs. Make sure that you have removed any selvage (thinner material at the edge of the roll).
2. Place joining tape on ground underneath the centre line of the join, ensuring that there is an equal amount of tape under each roll (nails can be used to hold this in place if necessary).
3. Using a straight edge trim each edge of surface to give a clean join edge. Check that the surfaces meet along the join, moving the surfaces if necessary to provide a good join. Fold the grass over and cut from the back and fold back over when the edge has been fully and neatly trimmed.
4. Using a cartridge gun apply adhesive to the joining tape and spread it out evenly along the centre of the tape. Optionally, you can spread the glue evenly using a metal or plastic spreader.
5. Starting at one end, place both pieces down together and press down to ensure contact onto the adhesive and joining tape. It is best to get someone to help with this part by keeping the sections ahead of where you are working away from the adhesive until you are ready to press both edges down. The aim is to tuck the join together without crushing tufts.
6. Once down, use a float or a piece of timber to rub over the join to ensure contact. For a more secure join, place boards or weights along the join for a short time.
7. On very long joins work in small sections (approx 2m - 3m) and follow the same instructions above.
8. **If you get adhesive on the artificial grass during the joining process wash it off immediately using a petrol-soaked rag.**