



Watering Guide

FOR NEW AND ESTABLISHED LAWNS



- To check moisture levels, pull back a corner of the new sod and push a screwdriver or other sharp object into the soil. It should push in easily and come out moist along the first six inches. If not, additional water should be applied.
- A lawn's corners and edges are particularly vulnerable to drying out, commonly missed by sprinklers. Areas near buildings also dry out faster. Ensure the entire lawn receives the same amount of water.
- If runoff occurs, turn off the water and wait thirty minutes to an hour before resuming to conserve water. For the first two weeks, keep the soil below new turf moist with daily or more frequent watering as needed.
- As the roots of the turf begin to penetrate the soil, it will be difficult to pull back a corner to check underneath the sod. You can still use a sharp object to penetrate the soil by going all the way through the turf into the soil.
- Water between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. when temperatures and wind speeds are lower, preventing water loss due to evaporation. The ideal time to water is just before sunrise, while the grass is still wet with dew, to deter diseases.
- Once sod is established, infrequent and deep watering is preferred over frequent and shallow watering. Roots will only grow as deep as their most frequent available water supply, and deeper roots create stronger, healthier grass.
- **DORMANT TURF STILL NEEDS WATER!** Dormant grass is not dead. Dormant turf needs about half an inch of water per week from rain or irrigation. Wind and low humidity levels dry out turf. Watering during winter dry spells will keep soil moist and increase your chances for a healthy green lawn in the spring.



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