



St. Augustine Sod Aftercare Guidelines

0-10 Days After Installation

- Water each day at least 15-20 minutes in each area of lawn (according to how much water your sprinkler emits and your soil type). Watering a second time each day is recommended if the temperatures are over 80 degrees F and sunny. It is important to get the water through the sod and into the soil below the sod. Check to make sure you are watering enough by pulling back the corner of the sod in several places throughout the lawn to make sure the soil below is moist.
- Do not mow.
- Do not fertilize.
- Hire a fertilization and pest control company to treat your new sod. St. Augustine is susceptible to pests and disease, and it is imperative that the sod continues to receive the same treatment it had on the farm. This is different than a mowing company.
- St. Augustine grass is not wear-tolerant. Keep non-essential foot traffic to an absolute minimum. If the edges of the sod pull apart or are separating, you are not applying enough water for your soil type. The sod is shrinking and pulling apart. Make sure to water along pavement surfaces when temperatures are warmer, as the sod will bake and become dry next to the hot pavement surfaces such as stone, gravel, concrete, pavers, curbing, etc.

10-21 Days After Installation

- Water every other day for approximately 30 minutes. By watering for longer periods of time, you are encouraging root growth deeper into the soil.
- Check to make sure you are watering enough by pulling back the corner of the sod in several places throughout the lawn to make sure the soil is moist. The sod should be difficult to pullup – do not force it up. The root system is establishing and should not be pulled from the soil. Just tug lightly to assure good rooting. If the lawn is not rooting, you may not be watering enough.
- Do not apply fertilizer to the lawn yet.
- Do not mow.

21+ Days After Installation

- You may begin to cut the lawn as needed. The lawn should be fairly well-rooted.
- Water the lawn approximately twice a week making sure to apply 1 inch of water each week. Use a pie tin or similar container to measure your irrigation by placing it in the path of a sprinkler. Multiply the amount of water in inches by the number of times you water each week to total 1 inch per week. For instance, ½ inch for two waterings equals 1 inch of total water weekly. After about 21 days, or when the grass has reached 4 inches high, mow your new sod with the mower set at 3 inches and ensuring the blades are sharp. Never mow more than 1/3 of the total blade height at once.
- Continue mowing every 5-7 days during active growth.

** It is strongly encouraged that you hire a licensed, qualified lawn fertilization and pest control company to prevent pest infestation and turf diseases. These guidelines are provided as a courtesy to our community. Even if you follow all the recommendations provided, there is no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied for ongoing survival of sod for conditions beyond our control.