

# D.I.Y. LAWNS

## Installation Process

The most important aspect of creating an Artificial Grass lawn is the preparation. There are no shortcuts.

### Measuring:

Mark off the area to be measured. It can help to mark off the area with a spray paint or sand.

Use our measurement guide to assess the size of Artificial Grass you require. When measuring it is essential to incorporate an overlap of 100mm over each edge for coverage over the timber perimeter. Artificial Grass comes in 2 metre and 4 metre wide rolls and can be supplied in lengths to suit you. It is important to measure accurately to work out the precise length and width needed. For simple shapes it is usually fairly simple to work out your requirement, but for more complex shapes and areas it may be useful to work out your requirement using squared graph paper.

### Survey/Ground Conditions:

Assess whether the ground terrain is subject to poor drainage. In such cases to ensure a satisfactory base for the Artificial Grass, measures must be taken to install adequate and appropriate drainage.

If a new sub-surface is being constructed to take artificial grass a slight fall (1:200 is ideal) should be incorporated to assist drainage. Porous (open textured) macadam is particularly suitable as a sub base for all types of Artificial Grass.

Paving slabs are not satisfactory, since after a period of time the pattern of the slabs will show on the surface of the grass. The slabs should be removed or covered with a thick layer of coarse sand.

Well compacted unbound aggregate (stone) bases are ideal for artificial grasses and if an artificial lawn were to be built from scratch, this type of base would be recommended. Any unbound surface, which drains and is stable and reasonably level however, is perfectly satisfactory. If the surface is too rough it may be screeded with coarse sharp sand, prior to laying the grass.

Whilst artificial grass may be laid directly onto an existing lawn, provided the drainage is satisfactory, this is not always very satisfactory in the long term. The natural grass will die off and the roots will decay, causing unevenness in the surface. Removal of the grass and compaction of the resulting soil base

will overcome this problem, particularly if the soil is covered with a layer of compacted grit sand.

### **Removal of Lawn Grass etc:**

Remove the grass sod all other vegetation and other materials by hand or hire a turf cutter to save time and effort. Grade out the soil to approximate levels removing any large protruding stones and firmly compact. You should install drainage if necessary and then compact the ground using a vibrating plate that can be hired from an equipment hire company.

### **Lay Gravel Base followed by Sharp Sand:**

If required use treated timber/timber stakes to put in an area frame. We recommend 4 \* 2 inches of tannalised treated timber for heavy clay soil areas and poorly draining areas and 2 \* 2 inches of tannalised timber for good draining areas. Screw these timbers to the stakes leaving the stakes on the inside of the perimeter. Should the Artificial Grass meet a concrete path, wall or decking position the timber flush with the surface height and by using 10mm temporary fillet, pack the timber close to the wall leaving the space to enable you to tuck the Artificial Grass between the timber and the adjoining material at a later stage.

Position the stakes against the inner perimeter timber edging and hammer in to the ground ensuring the stakes are slightly lower than the timber edging. Next screw the timber stake to the timber edging.

With heavy clay soils we recommend laying a crushed stone surface of up to 3 inches. This will not be necessary for the majority of areas and only required if you have a high water table where the ground holds water for a long period of time after it rains. Next compact the ground using a vibrating plate that can be hired from an equipment hire company. Ensure the perimeter are compacted and below the timber edging by 1 inch. Infill the perimeter with sharp sand and level using a rake. Ensure the sand is level to the top of the timber edging and compact again.

For good drainage areas spread a layer of sharp sand to blind over the soil. Next compact the ground using a vibrating plate that can be hired from an equipment hire company. Ensure the perimeter are compacted and level with the timber edging.

The more work you put in at this stage the better the resulting Artificial Lawn will look.

### **Weed Control Layer:**

Apply the weed control geo textile membrane and cut as necessary. Tack using small 1 inch galvanised clout nails to the timber edging. This weed control geo textile membrane prevents any chance of weed growth through the artificial grass drainage holes.

### **Roll out Artificial Grass:**

Lay the Artificial Grass in the desired direction working on the carpet and not on the levelled base. Ensure carpet is positioned to minimise cuts, joints and waste overlaying the timber edging by a minimum of 4 inches. If the grass meets a path or edge and if you have laid the timber edging correctly as previously described, then the artificial Grass can be wedged between. If joining, please ensure that the Artificial Grass is laid with the pile running in the same direction on each piece. Lay the carpet on top of the sand as opposed to dragging it across the base material. To help stop wrinkles or creasing it is advisable to allow 2 to 3 hours to settle before continuing with jointing and adhesive.

Cut grass to shape using a sharp Dolphin or Stanley knife or scissors.

### **Jointing:**

When jointing the carpet together ensure the pile runs in the same direction. Cut off manufacturer's edge strip (if present) and butt two edges together ensuring there are no gaps greater than 1mm between the two carpet edges. The accuracy of this will determine how visible the join is after the completion. Fold back edges and position jointing tape (smooth side down) so that the edges of the carpet meet the tape when joined.

### **Adhesive:**

a) Apply the cartridge adhesive in a zig zag motion onto the rougher side of the tape allowing one cartridge for every 3 linear metres. Turn down carpet and press both edges into the wet adhesive, ensuring each piece marries up and has no overlap. As you are doing this with your fingers mix the fibres together to conceal the join. Once the whole length is in place and you are happy with its appearance it is necessary to walk along the join several times to activate the glue and bond the grass to the tape. Weigh down the seam to ensure good contact with the glue until it cures. The more care taken with the operation the neater and tidier the joint will be.

or

b) If using the 2-component multi purpose adhesive, ensure thorough mixing of the two components before use. Apply adhesive to the rough side of the tape and spread evenly across a width of at least 20cm using if possible a notched trowel. Sufficient adhesive should be applied so that when the artificial grass carpet is pressed into the adhesive, a transfer over the carpet backing is complete. Turn down carpet and press both edges into the wet adhesive, ensuring each piece marries up and has no overlap. Make sure the carpet does not crest at the seam and is holding flat over the bonded area. Once the whole length is in place and you are happy with its appearance it is necessary to walk along the join several times to activate the glue and bond the grass to the tape. Weight the seam to ensure good contact with the glue until it cures.

Weigh down the seam to ensure good contact with the glue until it cures. The more care taken with the operation the neater and tidier the joint will be.

While you should endeavour not to put adhesive onto the carpet small amounts of glue can be removed from the grass fibre using White Spirit and a small offcut of the Artificial Grass. Small amounts of cured glue can usually be removed however, to avoid this situation and the possibility of damage to the Artificial Grass, care and precautions should be taken to avoid contact with the fibres at all times.

When the Artificial Grass has been jointed and glued and you are happy with the levels screw the grass to the timber perimeter framework using galvanised screws at a minimum of 12 inch intervals.

### **Spread Sand (Optional, depending on Grass Selected)**

When the Artificial Grass has been laid use silica sand, which is kiln dried and brush into carpet as you go. Each product could have sand infill but this is only used to stabilise the carpet and at no time should the sand be visible. You must obtain an even spread over the surface using a brush build up the depth in layers. Do not apply the sand in one application. Brush sand into pile immediately after laying while the Artificial Grass is dry and while weather is good. Brush vigorously against the fibres of the carpet pile to encourage the tufts to stand upright. Putting the correct amount of sand in helps hold the Artificial Grass down, protects the fibres and also keeps it standing to give it the look of real grass.

Product	Kiln Sand kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Rubber Infill
Nearly Grass 40mm		Not Applicable
Leisure Grass 40mm	8 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Not Applicable
Landscape Grass 35mm	8 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Not Applicable

If you need any help or advice, regarding any of our Artificial Grass or Synthetic turf please do not hesitate to email to [sales@diylawns.com](mailto:sales@diylawns.com) or call us on 028 90205944