



### ***How to care for your new sod***

When you have new sod installed in your yard, it is important to start, and keep faithfully, a proper watering schedule right away, to ensure survival and lasting beauty for your new lawn. Immediately after the sod has been laid, you should begin by watering it twice per day for fifteen to twenty minute time blocks; make sure to move the sprinkler around to all areas of your new sod which should give the sod about an inch of water per session. This schedule should be maintained for at least one week.

After one week, the sod should be watered once daily for fifteen to twenty minute time blocks. This schedule should be maintained for two to three weeks, or until the sod becomes rooted in the soil. The main rule is that the sod should not be allowed to dry out at any time before you see that it is firmly rooted.

The ideal time to water your lawn is during the evening hours (about 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.) At night, less of the water is evaporated and the sod will be able to use the water more efficiently. If this might be a difficult time to water, given your particular schedule, you could get by watering during the day.

### ***Problem Solvers for New Sod Lawns***

If you think that your sod is not taking root fast enough, you should know that sod lawns planted in excessive shade will put down roots more slowly than sod lawns which are in full sun. Adjusting your watering schedule can help a lawn that is having problems establishing roots. Doing less frequent but deeper soakings may help.

If your sod is shrinking, that is a sign that it is not receiving enough water. Immediately begin increasing the duration and frequency of watering and the gaps should fill in.

Does your sod have bluish-grey spots? If so, these are drought spots. Take care of new sod lawns by increasing watering time. If you are using a sprinkler to water, make sure it is reaching the areas that are spotting.

### ***Mowing Instructions***

New sod should **not** be mowed immediately. Typically you should mow your new lawn about 10 to 14 days after installation, but not if the grass is less than 3 inches tall. Ideally, new sod should grow to at least 4 inches before mowing. Avoid cutting it too short. Make sure your mower blade is sharp and set your mower at 3 inches.