HOW TO INSTALL ARTIFICIAL TURF

TOOLS NEEDED. Stiff bristle broom, razor knife with extra blades, shovel, rake, lawn roller, garden hose, nails, seam tape, adhesive, and hammer. You will also need to rent a compactor and seed spreader.

1. Measure and mark area where turf will be installed. You can use an outdoor spray can to mark off the boundaries for your lawn. Synthetic Turf comes in different sizes. Plan your installation to have as few seams as possible with your layout.

2. Remove present grass and landscaping materials. Use shovels, sod puller (you can rent one) or have your local landscaper perform this task.

3. Remove sprinkler heads close off sprinkler system.

4. Compact the ground under your synthetic turf. You need to fully firm up the ground that will be the foundation of your lawn. The best way to do this is to use a vibrating plate compactor, which you can rent. You will then add on top of the compacted soil a sub- base. (See 6-7 below). Some use their existing soil and that can work. It just has to be a very stable base under the turf. If your soil is sandy or does not compact, then valleys will appear under your turf.

5. If weeds are a problem in your area apply a weed and grass killer to the installation area. In some areas you will need to install a plastic sheet bearer or a mesh weed barrier above the compacted soil and below the turf. This is not required in dry climates.

6. **Sub-Base:** Install 1" to 3" layer of rock aggregate of no more than 1/4". Your local nursery, rock yard or landscapers company can help you choose and will deliver this sub base. It is also available in home improvement stores in the pave stone area in 50 lb. bags. Make this base firm and level. If your soil is unstable, you may need more than 2” of sub-base. If you are not sure, ask your local nursery, landscape supply, or landscaper. Many installers compact the soil that is already present.

7. Spread, level and compact this sub-base. Use the vibrating compactor to fully pack the sub-base.

8. Check for surface imperfection. Fill and re-level your sub-base removing hills or depressions that are over 1/4". Synthetic Grass drains water through drainage holes built into it, giving the base a very slight slope away from structures helps rain water to drain without pooling.

9. In an open area unroll your turf. Measure carefully the sizes you need, and cut as needed. Then, piece by piece, move the turf into installation position for final cutting. Do not drag the turf. Roll up and carry into position.

10. When cutting the grass to size, always use a sharp blade in a quality utility knife. Change blades regularly. To make the turf easier to handle, cut off larger pieces of excess turf that is unneeded. Position the turf where it needs to be and trim the edges more precisely.

11. Seam the grass. There are several ways to seam you turf. Use carpet tape or roofing tape, or

you can use carpet glue or a urethane glue and landscape fabric to seam the turf. All supplies can be found at a local home supply center.

DISCUSSION: This step is not as hard of a task as you might expect. Because synthetic grass has a relatively high blade height, seams are much less noticeable especially after infill is installed and the turf is properly brushed. If this is your first install we suggest you try a few seams with excess turf you have. When nailing, slant the nails at an angle so that the nails pull the turf together. Remember: Always have the turf run the same direction. (This means the blades of grass fall one direction, when seaming, make sure they point the same direction). Also we find it is helpful to line up the loops from the backing so you are lined up in a vertical and horizontal manner. When using seam tape or glue, using too much or too little are the main problems. Work with a few sample seams until you have it down.

12. Apply an infill if your turf calls for it. After the seam glue has dried or the turf has been nailed down, trim off your grass so your lawn fits exactly as you want. Then, using a standard seed-drop spreader, apply the infill. The average infill amount is one to two pounds per square foot. Infill helps weigh the turf down, helps keep fibers upright and prevents matting. Infill can be silica sand or coated silica sand. Cost is around $8 for a 50-pound bag at your local home supply center.

DISCUSSION: The bottom line is to apply the material you can afford. In light duty traffic, silica sand is by far the best choice. In spreading the infill, make one entire pass on the on the surface of your new lawn and then sweep the infill deeply into the fibers. Then repeat this process until all of the infill has been spread and fallen in between blades. Some use masonry sand, if will you have a lot of traffic on your turf, we do not recommend masonry sand as it can cut fibers.

13. Edging. You may choose to install edging around your new lawn. Options are incredibly varied and include extruded curbing, 4" x 4" timbers, natural stone, rock, metal edging and plastic edging. If you are not going to apply an edging, we suggest you hammer regular landscaping nails every 12-18 inches along the perimeter of your Synthetic lawn to prevent the edges from lifting. Make sure your nails are 4 to 6 inches long.

14. Spray with water and brush. Using a hose, water down the turf and brush with a stiff broom against the grain. A standard metal rake can also be used to get the turf to stand up by pushing the rake, instead of pulling.

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU ARE DONE!