

TURF PREPARATION GUIDE

PREPARED BY >



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Preparing the area:

To ensure the best out of you lawn, the laying area must be well prepared. So when preparing your site for laying new lawn one main rule should be obeyed. Turf requires a loose surface on which to be laid. There are many ways to achieve this result.

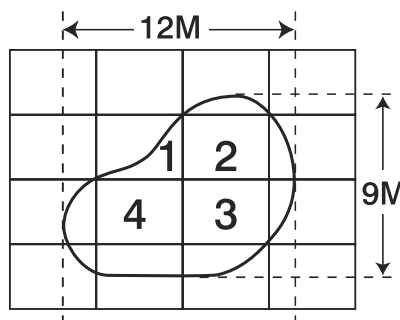
The steps are as follows:

- 1 For best results it is always advisable to kill any existing weeds or grass by spraying a herbicide such as Zero or Roundup. Spray directly onto the weeds and unwanted grass. For maximum effectiveness wait at least a week after spraying before you lay your new turf.
- 2 Dig into the existing ground as deep as you can. If you have a large area, using a rotary hoe will make the job a lot easier. Rake and level the area, removing sticks, stones & other debris as you go.
- 3 If the soil is a clay type it is a good idea to mix 1kg of Gypsum per 1m² into the ground (if the clay is heavy the rate should be doubled).
- 4 Spread 50mm of Premium Turf Gro over the areas on which the turf is to be laid. This will provide turf with a good base for roots to take and provides nutrient and improved drainage.
- 5 Fertilisers, such as Sir Walter Launcher, or granular lawn fertilisers can also be raked into the ground as this will add extra nutrients as the lawn starts to take.
- 7 After fertilising it is a good idea to give the soil a good soaking, as this is a more efficient way of keeping your new turf watered as the soil is already damp.

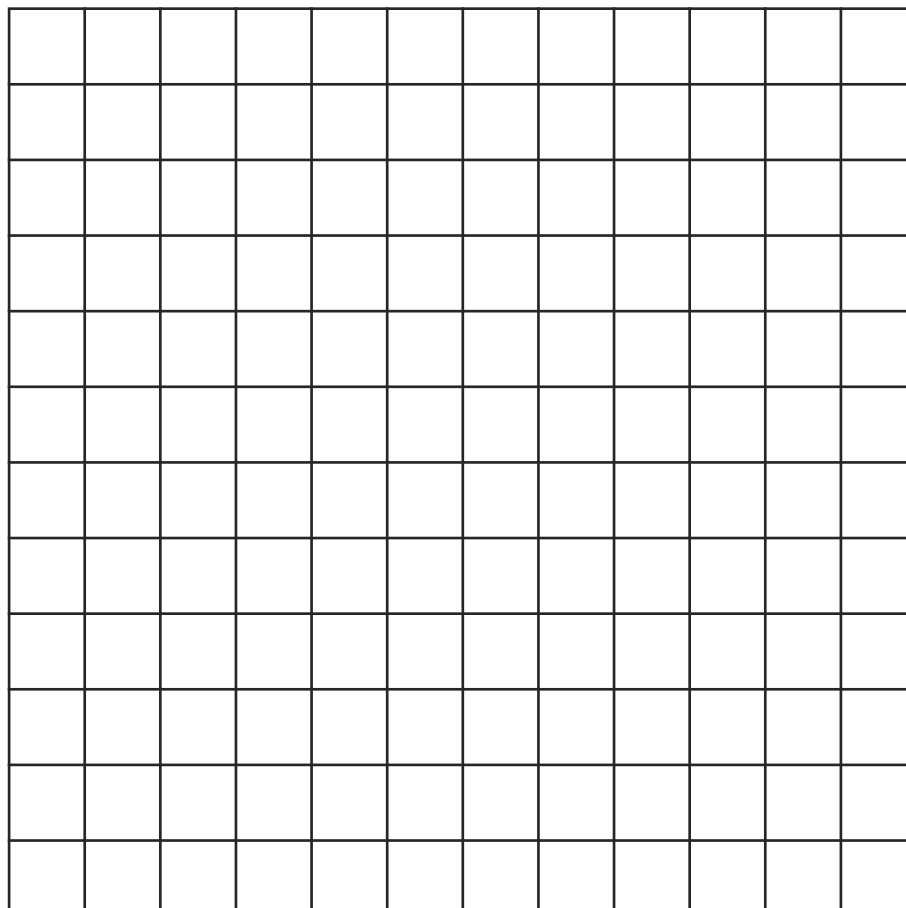


Measuring and ordering your turf:

- 1 Measure the length and width of regular areas in metres and multiply to calculate the amount of turf required in square metres.
- 2 For irregular shaped areas, sketch onto paper to make it easier to calculate areas. Allow an extra 15% for shaping, cutting and joining turf rolls. As an example we have added a sample table.



Sketch any unusual shaped areas onto the grid and then break it into squares for easy calculation.



Laying the turf

- 1 Start at a straight line such as a fence or path.
- 2 It is best to lay one roll alongside all pathways, edges, gardens, etc and then fill in the remainder of the area, laying the turf in one direction. Have the ends staggered, like the way bricks are laid, as this will help to establish the roots.
- 3 Make sure all the joins of the turf are snugly together without overlapping or spaces between the strips. If you have a sloping site, laying turf across the slope will help to prevent erosion.
- 4 Cut around obstacles (tree's etc) with a sharp knife or a shovel.
- 5 Make sure the sod is in contact with the ground. Rolling is optional (to smooth out bumps).

Maintenance of new turf:



Watering Requirements: Each type of turf requires a different maintenance schedule. However, all new lawns require daily watering for the first week. Gradually reduce frequency as time passes. Check with your local council about watering restrictions.

Mowing: It is important to give a new lawn time to establish before you mow it for the first time. Let the grass grow to a height of 5-6cm before the first mowing and then only reduce the height to 3-4cm on the first cut. Ensure your mower blades are sharp. No more than 40% of the lawn's leaf should be removed in a cut; otherwise the balance between roots, leaves and stems will be disturbed.



Fertilising: Fertilise 4 weeks after laying the turf, using a complete fertiliser such as Sir Walter Fertiliser. Make sure it is well watered in immediately because if it is not it will burn the lawn.

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