

How to care for your new lawn

Congratulations on being the proud owner of a newly laid lawn!

To keep your grass and garden looking its best, there are a few things you'll need to do. This is your handy guide to keeping your lawn fresh for years to come.

Help your soil breathe

It's easy to provide air holes in your lawn by using a garden fork or aeration shoes from a garden centre – just press the prongs into the turf. This 'aeration' process makes the lawn more tolerant to dryness and helps the turf become denser. We recommend aerating in spring (between March and May) and autumn (between August and November). It also encourages rooting and drainage; soil needs air or else it becomes too compacted and the grass will die.

Planting flowers

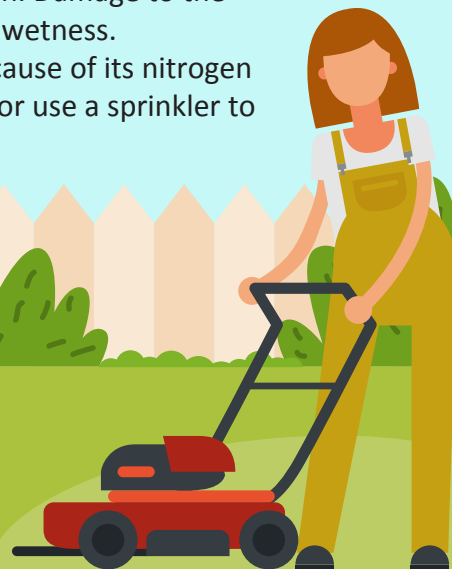
Planting flowers enhances the look of your garden. We recommend that you do it in areas where your grass might not be as established, such as around edges or near fencing and adjoining walls. These flowers will help stop weeds and enrich the soil, but you should avoid planting trees because their roots can cause damage. Small-to-medium-sized shrubs are fine though. Ask your garden centre which kinds they'd suggest.

Pets

Your garden is the ideal place for pets to let off steam, but only after the grass has established itself. If animals run on it before the turf is ready, they'll add to any problems you might have when trying to grow your lawn. Damage to the lawn will also occur if animals run on the lawn in periods of wetness. Dog urine can leave unsightly scorched patches of grass because of its nitrogen content. Apply water to affected areas as soon as possible, or use a sprinkler to cover wide areas.

Garden accessories





Wait until turf is established before personalising your garden with ornaments and kids' toys. Move garden accessories regularly to allow the grass underneath them to keep growing, prevent pooling and water-logging. Moving items will also prevent grass wearing away.



All lawns require seasonal after-care to keep them looking at their best. For your newly laid lawn there are two key requirements to remember:

- Your lawn needs watering daily for eight weeks after it has been laid, either early morning or during the evening. Don't water if raining, especially if you move into the property in the winter months.
- Avoid walking on the grass for a minimum of 3-4 weeks, until the roots have taken hold in the ground.
- Follow these two guidelines and your newly laid lawn shall be off to a good start. Below is further advice to help maintain your lawn and keep it healthy for years to come.

Seasonal Maintenance

 <p>SPRING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early spring filling any gaps and undulations with stone free top soil or top dressing and sow grass seeds in these areas. • Feed your lawn in the spring months prior or just after rain with lawn feed bought from your local garden centre. • Mow – begin your mowing regime, once a week at a height of 40mm. • Top dress – brush in a thin layer of 50% sharp sand and 50% peat. • Moss prevention – feeding will help but specific chemical treatment can be used.
 <p>SUMMER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowing – gradually reduce height of grass to 13-25mm (medium to low setting). Cut once or twice a week. • Weeding – using weed killer or specialist tool to remove the weed, from your local garden centre • Watering – once a week (after first 8 weeks). 1m² requires 20L of water weekly, water well in dry conditions. • Bare patches – break surface up, sow seed at 10-15g per m², light rake over then water.
 <p>AUTUMN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerate – spike the lawn at a spacing and depth of 10-15cm. (See section over leaf for instructions) • Scarify – vigorously rake using a spring-tined rake to remove old vegetation and moss. • Feed – in early autumn apply fertiliser to encourage root growth. • Mow – reduce grass cuts to once a week and increase the cutting height to 40mm. Top (mow it on a higher setting) the grass for the last cut of the year in September and feed the lawn with autumn lawn feed. Brush leaves away and rake until spring.
 <p>WINTER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid heavy use during the winter to ensure minimal damage to your lawn in the wettest months. • If you have just moved into your property in the winter and your lawn is newly laid the turf won't be fully stable yet and it is vital to stay off it.

Water-logging

Heavy rain and poor lawn maintenance can make your lawn boggy and squelchy with water collecting on the surface. This is called water-logging and it leads to grass wilting, turning yellow and dying. If your lawn becomes waterlogged, try these remedies to help save it and stop the same thing happening again in the future...

- Avoid walking on the grass, as this will only worsen
- Try and gently brush excess water into a run-off area or down a drain using a soft-bristle brush, then spike the lawn as deeply as possible with a garden fork
- If your lawn stays wet for long periods, add a thin layer of top soil or sharp sand to affected areas to help draw out moisture and recover quickly. Ask a local garden centre for their advice.

The north's climate and its heavy rainfall will affect your garden. The ground under your lawn will take up to 12-18 months to find its own natural drainage, so when water levels are at their highest there will be standing water or pooling.

It is your responsibility to maintain the garden in all weather conditions. The contractor's only responsibility is pooling occurring within three metres of your property.