



FIELD COMPOST

High Quality Products Made in East Anglia

Turf Installation and Aftercare



Turf Installation and Aftercare

Thank you for choosing to purchase your turf from Field (compost) Ltd.

Tools required:

- Garden fork;
- Rake;
- Shovel;
- Wheel barrow;
- Tiller/Rotovator (optional for large compacted areas);
- A number of scaffold/timber boards sufficiently wide to cover the length/width of the proposed lawn;
- A sharp knife (A cheap retractable bladed craft knife is ideal);
- A heavy sledge hammer or tamp for banging down boards.

Preparation

As with any job, proper preparation is the key to great results. A perfectly level and well prepared sub-base will result in a beautiful lawn for years to come.

1. **Prepare the sub-base.**Carefully level the area on

which the new turf is to be laid removing any weeds, large stones or roots. It is at this stage that it's important to consider how water will drain and to alleviate any areas of soil compaction with a fork or tiller/rotovator. For best results we would recommend that the prepared lawn sub-base should be approximately 30mm lower than the proposed level of the finished lawn. The finished sub-base should be firm enough to take the weight of a heavy person without their feet sinking into the ground.

2. Prepare the root-zone. Add a 25mm layer of our Field No.21 High Quality Planting Topsoil. This should be carefully levelled using the back of a rake or can be screeded level using a section of straight 100x50mm timber. Once levelled the root-zone should not be walked on and is ready for the turf to be laid.

Installation

It is important to avoid walking directly on the turf you have laid; this is where the scaffold (or similar timber) boards come into play. Always work from the boards as you are laying the turf as this will both help bed the turf down and avoid the creation of divots in the root-zone from foot prints.

1. When your turf arrives it is important to lay it as soon as possible. If you are not able to use the turf straight away we recommend that you unroll it and keep it well watered until you are ready to lay it.
2. Start by laying the turf around the edges of your lawn to form a frame. This will help retain moisture in the lawn whilst the root-zone develops. It will also provide a good straight edge to cut the turf against as you lay it. If your lawn edges are not straight you can introduce curves by folding the inside edge of the turf so the outside edge follows the required line. Once you have created the desired curve simply cut down the centre of the fold and lay one of the flaps you have created on top of the other. You can then use your knife to cut away the lower flap and bed down the top flap in the opening you have created.

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3. Once you have framed the lawn with turf you can then commence laying the centre. If your lawn has a straight edge it is often best to start laying the turf from the longest straight edge as this will reduce the number of cuts required. Start by laying your scaffold or timber boards in a line on top of the turf edge you have just laid. Next use your sledge hammer or tamp to bang the top of the board so as to bed the turf down. If you are using scaffold boards you will find they are approximately half the width of the turf rolls so you will need to roll them over and repeat the tamping process.
4. Commence laying the turf end to end from one edge ensuring that joins are nice and snug. It is best to overlap joins by approximately 10mm and then gently pat the turf down so it pops down tightly against the adjoining roll. When you complete laying the first line of turf you will need to cut the last roll in against the framed edge. Next roll the boards over and commence tamping the line you have just laid.
5. Take the off-cut from the last turf you have just laid, rotate it through 180° and use it to start creating the next line, working back in the opposite direction. By doing this it will mean that the turf joints are staggered and will also result in a nice striped effect once you are finished. Repeat this process until your new lawn is laid and bedded down.

Immediate Aftercare

Because it is important to look after a newly laid lawn, we have set out below a few useful points which will help ensure your lawn has the best possible start.

Watering: Very important!

Make sure you have a source of water, hose and a sprinkler before your turf is laid;

1. In warm weather, ensure you start watering as soon as the turf is laid;
2. When temperatures drop below 10°C watering is less

important but look for signs of the turf looking dry and water as required;

3. Quantities of water required will vary with soil types and temperature. A good way to check is to lift a corner of a turf to ensure it is moist all the way through and the soil underneath is also moist;
4. If possible, water twice a day, early morning and late afternoon for 2 weeks;
5. Make sure you have covered every turf. The water will not spread;
6. Do NOT walk on the turf after you have watered it. Stay off the turf for 2 weeks or longer if it's laid on a steep gradient. By this time the turf should have rooted well and you will no longer be able to lift the corners by hand.

Mowing

Start mowing your lawn approximately 2 weeks after laying. Use the mower on a high setting to start and then mow again a few days later to reduce the height. Never mow any more than 1/3 of the sward length in one cut. Repeat mowing once a week from spring to autumn. Use a mower with a grass collector as raking cuttings may damage the grass.

Contact

For more information and friendly advice please give us a call or drop us an email.

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