



SOTA Sod Aftercare

Thank you for trusting us with your project! We're proud of the work we do, and our commitment to Delight Every Customer doesn't end with the installation – it continues for years to come. Now that the installation is complete, we ask for your help in keeping the new sod healthy and ensuring it takes root properly. Please follow the care instructions below carefully to get the best results.

General Rule of Thumb

- **Keep new sod consistently moist for the first two weeks.**
- **Avoid foot traffic** during the first 2-3 weeks to allow the roots to knit with the soil.
- **Mow only after the sod has rooted**, generally between weeks 2-4.

Watering Instructions

Initial Watering (Day of Installation)

- Water immediately after installation to soak the soil to a depth of 6-8 inches (60-120 minutes)

Weeks 1-2

- Frequency: Water 2-4 times per day, especially during hot, sunny, or windy weather
- Duration: Water long enough for the water to soak 3-4 inches into the soil, typically 20-30 minutes depending on soil type. A good way to measure is to use a screw driver to check the soil moisture
- Timing: Water in the early morning, midday, and early evening, do not water after dark

- Monitor and adjust based on weather (more water during heat/wind, less during rain).
- Be especially mindful of edges, walkway borders, and sun-exposed areas, as they dry out faster.
- Check for signs of under watering: yellowing at seams (not neon yellow).

Weeks 3-4

- Reduce to once daily watering, 90-120 minutes per session.

Weeks 5-12

- Adjust to 1-2 times per week, 60-90 minutes per session, depending on weather.

After 3 Months

- Transition to a weather-based watering schedule.
- Water more during droughts or extreme heat, and less during rainy periods.

Mowing Guidelines

- First mow: Around 3-4 weeks post-installation, only after roots have established (test by gently tugging on the sod).
- Blade height: Do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass height. Do not cut more than 2.5" at a time to avoid scalping.
- Clippings: Always bag clippings during the first few mowings to prevent suffocation and disease.

- Mow **only when grass is dry**. Always **mow before watering**, never after.

Fertilization & Weed Control

Starter Fertilizer

- Apply a starter fertilizer within the first two weeks to promote root development.
- If installed in October or November, wait until spring to fertilize. Do not fertilize dormant sod.
- Apply again at 6–8 weeks

Weed Control

- Avoid any weed killers (including herbicides) for the first 3–4 months.
- You may apply a pre-emergent herbicide at 2 weeks

Pest, Disease & Aeration

- Monitor for pests such as grubs, chinch bugs, and fungal diseases like leaf spot.
- Root rot occurs from prolonged overwatering and appears as neon yellow or green at the base of the grass blades. It is often irreversible. Avoid root rot by not overwatering; allow roots time to absorb moisture.
- Aerate in the fall or spring, no sooner than 2 months after installation.

Winter Installations

- Sod installed in October or November will gradually enter a dormant state once the ground begins to freeze.
- Watering is still necessary until the ground fully freezes, even though cooler temperatures slow down evaporation.
- In cooler weather, you can typically reduce watering times by 25% to 50%, depending on the temperature.
 - If daytime highs are in the 50s°F, reduce watering by about 25%.
 - If temperatures drop to the 30s-40s°F, reduce by up to 50%.
- Moisture lasts longer in colder soil, so less water is needed overall – but the sod still requires consistent dampness to root.
- Avoid watering late in the day. Early morning watering is ideal, even during fall.
- Morning frost will not harm the sod – it can actually help by adding moisture as it melts.
- Once the ground has frozen solid, no further watering is needed. The sod will remain dormant and resume rooting in spring.
- Resume watering in the spring once temperatures stabilize and the sod begins showing signs of active growth.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What happens if my sod dries out completely?

A: Sod that dries out will turn brown and go dormant. This is usually recoverable with proper watering. However, if left dry for too long, the sod may die.

Q: What is root rot and how do I prevent it?

A: Root rot is caused by excessive overwatering and appears as neon yellow or green grass at the roots. To prevent it, avoid watering too late in the day and allow soil to drain properly between sessions.

Q: Do you offer a sod warranty?

A: We do not offer a warranty due to the many variables outside our control (weather, watering practices, etc.)

Long-Term Lawn Health

After 3-4 months, consider annual or bi-annual services for ongoing lawn health: aeration, dethatching, fertilization, overseeding, weed control treatments

By following these steps carefully, your sod will establish strong roots and grow into a beautiful, healthy lawn. Thank you again for trusting us with your project – we're here if you need further support!