

## SOD CARE INSTRUCTIONS

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**New Sod** - For the first 2-3 weeks, water sod 3 times a day (morning, noon, evening). By lifting an edge of the sod up, you may check to see if the sod is getting enough water. Continue to water the sod 2 times a day after the first two weeks, continuing with once a day after the first 6 weeks. Watering may vary due to higher temperatures and wind, just don't let the sod dry out!

**Activity** - No horseplay, running or rough activity should be allowed on the new sod. Please keep the activity on the new sod to a minimum for the first two weeks after installation.

**Fertilize** - Fertilize the sod after 6-10 days from installation. This helps the sod to grow quicker and create a healthy root system. Continue to fertilize every 6-8 weeks between April and October. It is recommended that you use a 20-20-10 blend of fertilizer. Fertilize, then water, as the water carries the fertilizer down to the sod's root level to ensure proper feeding.

**Lawn Care** - The first time the sod is mown should be 7 to 10 days after installation. This is very important to the growth cycle of sod. You can have Bears Landscaping do this mowing but there will be an additional charge. If you do the mowing yourself, set your lawn mower at the top setting. You want to mow only the top 1/3 of the grass. This stimulates root growth. After you mow, then fertilize.

*No aeration or thatching the grass for the first two years after installation! Doing so may pull up the sod.*

**Winter Watering** - Make sure to water the sod during winter to prevent winterkill, which occurs when we do not have enough snowfall.

**Dark Blue to Silver Green Color** - These colors indicate that the grass is dry. Water the sod immediately!

**Straw-looking Color** - Sod has become too dry and is in dormancy. The sod will require a lot of water to return to the fertile green color, which may take up to 3 weeks.

**Please Note** - In order to achieve the healthiest sod, it is recommended that you follow the above instructions. It is the customer's responsibility to follow any city water restrictions that are in effect. Insufficient watering is 99% of all sod problems! We *do not* guarantee the life of the sod after installation.