

## Aftercare of a new lawn

Thoroughly water your newly laid lawn - a sprinkler is the most effective way of providing an even soaking. Repeat this watering until the turf has established - weather conditions will dictate the frequency of watering required but your lawn will dry out most quickly when conditions are warm or windy. In Spring and Summer, a newly laid lawn will require watering once or twice a day. If your lawn dries out your turfs will shrink and gaps will appear.

Avoid walking on your new lawn for a couple of weeks to allow the turf to bed in and knit together.

Mow the new lawn when the turf has rooted, setting the blades at the highest setting. Thereafter, mow regularly, each time removing no more than one third of the grass height. You can tell when the turf has rooted by trying to lift an edge - if it won't come up, it has taken root.

If your new lawn has been laid in Spring you can commence feeding after two months with a lawn fertiliser. A lawn laid in Autumn will not require feeding until the following Spring.

## Repairing an established lawn

You can use one or more rolls of turf to repair bare patches in your lawn giving an instant repair solution.

**1** Cut out a strip of lawn containing the bare patch to the same size as the roll or rolls of replacement turf using a half-moon edging iron. Undercut with a spade to remove the old turf strip.

**2** Add topsoil or remove some soil to achieve the correct soil level using the thickness of the new turf as a guide. Ensure the soil surface is level and scatter on pre-turf fertiliser.

**3** Lay the turf in position, checking that the turf is level with the surrounding lawn. If there are any slight mounds or hollows, peel back the turf and either remove some soil or fill with a little topsoil before replacing the turf. Butt edges of the new turf tightly to the edges of the existing lawn.

**4** Water thoroughly and keep well watered until the new turf is established.

Check with your local water authority before using a hosepipe and sprinkler to see whether there is a hosepipe ban in your area. If so, we recommend the use of a watering can filled from a butt to water newly laid lawn.

**5** If the damaged area is at the edge of a lawn carry out the same repair process described (left) and trim the edge of the turf with a long-bladed knife or half-moon edging iron.



# how to... make and repair a lawn with turf

### tools

- bucket
- builder's line
- club hammer
- garden roller
- half-moon edging iron or long-bladed knife
- hose pipe
- roller
- rake
- scaffold board
- soft broom
- spade
- sprinkler
- string
- tape measure
- wooden stakes or pegs

### materials

- topsoil
- turf
- lawn fertiliser
- pre-turf fertiliser
- silver sand

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Every effort has been made to ensure that the instructions given in this leaflet are accurate and will enable you to do the job safely and successfully. Please follow instructions carefully and seek expert advice in the event of difficulty.

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All information correct at time of going to print.

HOWT0106

Using rolls of turf you can make an instant lawn to create the perfect year-round foil for the rest of the garden and an area for relaxation, family use and entertainment.

### Preparing the site

Turf should be laid on a smooth, firm and flat soil surface with good drainage. The site should be open and not excessively shaded by trees or buildings. Turf can be laid at almost any time of the year providing the soil is not waterlogged or frozen, with Spring and early Autumn being the best times.

**1** Remove any existing grass by under-cutting with a spade. For larger areas a quicker and easier option is to hire a turf stripper.

**2** Dig over or rotovate the area to be turfed to a depth of about 15cm, removing all debris, large stones, weeds and old tree roots.



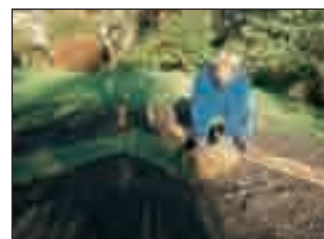
**3** Rake over the ground to produce a smooth surface. Firm down the soil by lightly rolling with a roller (this can be hired) or by treading the area with your feet. Rake over again and repeat the process until the whole area is level, even and firm. A wide rake makes levelling easier. The ground should be firm but not compacted.

### Laying the turf

Turf is sold in strips just under one square metre in size. Measure out the area of the intended lawn and multiply the length by the width to give the area in square metres - add about 5% extra to allow for wastage. Turf should be laid within 24 hours of delivery or collection. Check weather forecasts and delay laying if prolonged wet or frosty spells are expected.

**1** Mark out the boundaries of the intended lawn area clearly using a builder's line and sharpened wooden stakes or pegs. Use a club hammer to drive them in to the ground. Lay turf along all the edges first with the longest sides of the turfs parallel to the boundary line - if there is a curved edge you will need to overlap pairs of turfs slightly and then trim off the excess. Cut turfs to size with a long-bladed knife or a half-moon edging iron.

When turfing up to hard edges, ensure the top of the soil is level with the edging before laying the turf. This leaves the surface of the lawn above the surface of the surrounding hard surface so that you can mow up to the edge.



**2** Lay the turf in rows across the site working forward from a straight side. Stagger the joints, as in brickwork, from row to row. Butt the ends and edges tightly together without stretching the turf to ensure there are no gaps anywhere. Use a board as a platform to work from, placed on top of turfs you have just laid.



**3** If you spot a hollow in any of the turfs, peel back the turf and fill beneath with topsoil before replacing the turf. Fill any gaps between turfs by sprinkling some fine topsoil into them and brush over with a soft broom to ensure even coverage.



**4** Roll the finished lawn with a light roller to level the turf and bed into the soil.



**5** Tidy the edges of your new lawn with a long-bladed knife or half-moon edging iron. Curved edges can be created by marking out the line with a hose pipe or a trail of silver sand.