



Guide to Installing Artificial Turf

1. Overview

This guide is designed to help you successfully install artificial turf, providing a step-by-step process tailored for effective results.

2. What You Need

MATERIALS	TOOLS
Artificial turf Joining tape Silica sand or kiln-dried sand @ 10kg dry sand per sq. metre Gap 7 base course Gap 20 base course 6 inch flathead nails and/or U pins	Utility knife with a NEW blade Shovel Rake Plate compactor Stiff bristled "street" broom Spirit level Concrete screed Wheelbarrow

3. GETTING STARTED

Before you begin

Before starting, ensure you are in compliance with any local regulations. Check with your local council to avoid any compliance issues.

Area Layout:

Define your installation area using a rope or garden hose to mark the borders. Experiment with different layouts at various times of the day to choose the most suitable location. Consider the turf's rectangular dimensions (usually 2m or 4m wide) and plan for efficient drainage and exposure to elements like sunlight and shade.

Measuring:

Carefully measure the designated area and create a scaled map. This aids in estimating the required turf amount, determining join placements, and minimizing waste.

Hint: Allow extra turf beyond the borders for precise trimming during installation.

4. GETTING IT DONE

Step 1: Create a Solid Base

Excavate the Surface.



Remove all pre-existing grass and roots. Excavate to 80mm below the adjoining surface.



Base Preparation: Spread a 50mm base of Gap 20 crushed rock and compact it using a plate compactor or hand tap.

Step 2: Apply and Compact Crusher Dust



Now, add a 30mm layer of Gap 7 base course crusher dust. This finer material will create a smooth, level surface upon levelling and compacting. Remember, it's advisable to leave about 10mm below the adjoining surface for your turf.

Note: If you're working over a hard subsoil like concrete, stone or asphalt, steps 1 and 2 can be skipped.

Step 3: Lay Your Artificial Turf



Carefully roll out the artificial turf across the prepared base. Ensure the orientation of the grass blades is consistent across all turf pieces for a seamless look.



Hint: For an optimal visual effect, especially when viewed from your home, unroll the turf from left to right. This alignment tends to minimize the visibility of seams, providing a more natural and cohesive appearance to your artificial turf.

Step 4: Secure Joins With Tape



Securely connect adjacent sections of turf with joining tape.

Hint: Begin by marking a guide line across the surface where turf stands. Roll out the joining tape along this line. Ensure the underside of the turf is clean for optimal tape adherence. Remove the protective layer of the tape, then carefully align and press down the edges of the turf sections onto the tape. Avoid trapping grass fibres in the adhesive. Work methodically, joining about one meter at a time to ensure precision and a neat finish.

Step 5: Trimming



Trim overhanging grass with a utility knife. For accuracy, fold the grass back and slit the backing at intervals, creating a guideline for cutting.

Hint: Trimming by the edge can lead to quicker blade dulling due to contact with hard surfaces such as rocks and pavers.

Step 6: Secure Edges



Edge Securing: Secure edges with nails or U pins, spaced 200mm apart.



Hint: When nailing, make sure that the turf is well stretched, snug in place and free of wrinkles. You can also add a nail in the middle of each square meter of turf if desired. Just make sure there is no grass underneath the nail or U pin.

Step 7: Apply Silica Sand



Distribute silica sand evenly across your turf, aiming for about 10kg per square meter. And make sure to brush the sand into the turf.

Hint: Use silica or kiln-dried sand – it's like the VIP of sand for turf. It doesn't clump, making your spreading task a breeze. This step ensures everything stays in place, prevents clogging of drainage holes, and keeps those grass blades standing tall and proud. It's the secret sauce for a lush, long-lasting lawn that even your neighbours will envy.

Step 8: Enjoy Your Work



Relax and Admire: Celebrate your accomplishment and enjoy your new artificial turf.

Disclaimer:

This guide aims to offer general advice for installing artificial turf. While we strive for accuracy, we cannot cover every specific scenario. Responsibility for project outcomes rests with the individual undertaking the installation.

We recommend consulting with professionals for complex projects to ensure compliance with the New Zealand Building Code and/or local regulations. This guide does not assume liability for the execution or the final installation quality.