

[Artificial grass](#) is very popular, low maintenance and affordable option for your garden project.

[Artificial grass](#) has a stunning appearance and a natural feel all year round, which makes it ideal for families and pet owners, who wish to avoid causing damage to a real turf lawn.



[Artificial grass](#) should be laid on a smooth, clean and level surface. It should never be laid directly onto topsoil and should always have underlay and a [sub-base](#) to ensure the product has been installed correctly.

If you need any further advice, or are unsure of any of the processes outlined in this guide, please do not hesitate to get in contact.



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Preparing your ground for artificial grass

Carefully [measure](#) and mark out the area. When installing artificial turf, it is best to use an [edging](#) such as [timber](#), metal or composite around the perimeter of your area. This will help when securing the turf down and won't be visible after installation. If you are installing any edging or using existing edging, remember that artificial grass is sold in various pile heights (depth of grass) and the edging should not be higher than the level of the turf, unless your edging is being used as a retainer for example.

Remove any turf and dig to a recommended depth of 100mm. Up to 150mm depth may be required if the soil underneath has poor drainage properties, such as clay soil.

If you have a clay soil, which typically doesn't drain well, then start by adding a 75mm layer of [aggregate](#) such as [MOT type 1](#). Use a [rake](#) to level it out before compacting the ground with a whacker plate or stamping down.

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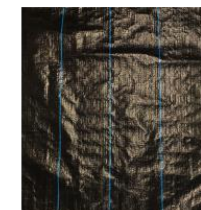


Add a 20-40mm layer of fine [aggregate](#) such as [sharp sand](#) or [granite dust](#) for extra drainage. Keep in mind the depth of the pile height on the [artificial grass](#) you've chosen.

Rake through and level out the surface. Use a whacker plate or stamp down the base. Repeat this process to achieve a level base if necessary. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for the best results. It's important to have a slight camber in the base, so that it slopes slightly towards the edges and where possible away from your house. This is to encourage drainage.

Once you have finished laying the base, spray over with water. This will help the materials bind together, giving you an all over stronger base.

Once you have finished the base, put on a layer of [permeable weed membrane](#) or [landscaping fabric](#), making sure it covers the whole of the base layer. This will stop any weed growth coming up through the base.



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How to fit your artificial grass

Roll the grass out, ensuring that the entire area is covered and that there is roughly a 50mm overlap on all the outer edges. If you are [joining](#) sections together, make sure that the pile all runs in the same direction. [Artificial grass](#) pile is best facing your house.

Once the grass is rolled out, let stand for 3 – 24 hours. This will allow the [grass](#) to flatten out level to the base.

To join any sections together, line both edges up with an overlap and check that the pile is running in the same direction. Fold back one of the sections and carefully cut through the latex with a sharp retractable [knife](#) to trim away the overlap.

Now that you've cut the overlap away, bring the two joins back together to test the joint looks right. There should be a 1mm - 2mm gap between the edges. The seam should not be visible from a distance.

Fold back the edges of the joining sections all the way along the length of the join. Then roll out the [joining tape](#) between the two lengths of grass, face the shiny side of the [tape](#) downwards. Do not lay the shiny side up as [bonding](#) will not adhere to this side.



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Apply [artificial turf](#) adhesive along the length of the joint. Then carefully work your way along the joint, sticking the turf down onto the [tape](#).

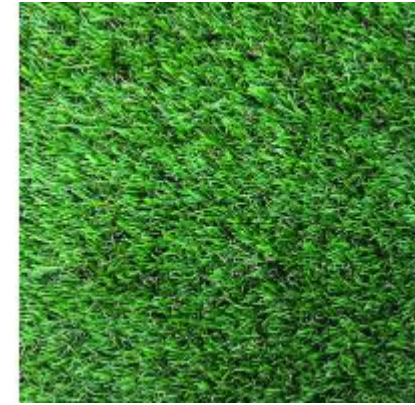
Now that the sections are joined together, carefully walk along the joint to apply pressure. This will secure the grass in place. Repeat this process for all the joints. Then fix the turf to the sub-base with [landscaping pins](#) or [nails, hammered](#) in at regular intervals along the edges.



Use a [knife](#) to carefully cut around any edges or obstacles. Leave the grass for up to 24 hours to allow the adhesive to dry and the artificial turf to settle.



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Looking after your [artificial grass](#)

You can spread an even layer of [kiln dried sand](#) over your new turf which will provide additional stability. This should be spread at a rate of approximately 5kg per square meter. For pet owners it's best to skip this step, to help your grass to stay fresh.

You should regularly brush your grass to keep it standing straight and even. You can hire a mechanical [brush](#) to do this, but a [stiff brush](#) works great.

Ensure that barbeques, hot objects or naked flames don't come into direct contact with the grass.