Sod Watering Guide Recommendations

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> *Before you begin, please note: A legal disclaimer is provided on the last page. We recommend reviewing it prior to using this guide.*

Watering New Sod: Spring & Summer Guidelines

Consistent and adequate watering is essential to help your new sod establish strong roots and thrive.

> ***If your sod is installed during spring or summer, it must be watered heavily and daily to prevent:***

- Shrinking or separation between rolls
- Drying or browning of the grass
- Dormancy (a stress response where grass stops growing)

> **Immediately after installation, saturate the sod thoroughly so that water penetrates deeply into the soil. This helps both the sod and the underlying ground absorb moisture, support rooting, and eliminate harmful air pockets.**

Early Spring Installations (March–April):

As temperatures rise going into summer, continue with full watering practices to help the sod withstand heat and establish fully by fall. Depending on how well the sod is rooted, adjustments may be needed to avoid overwatering.

Summer Watering Tips

- Water daily, even if it rains. Rainwater is often warm and won't stimulate root growth like cold or cool water from your irrigation system.
- Water early morning & late afternoon. Midday watering during high heat can burn the grass.
- Target: Keep the sod cool and the soil moist—not muddy.
- Suggested watering schedule: 3–4 times daily for 15 minutes each session (adjust based on your irrigation system).
- Use timers to manage irrigation consistently.

> ***Don't forget the edges! Sod edges dry out quickly and need just as much care as the center. Check for dryness regularly and hand-water if needed.***

> **Extra watering is typically required for new sod installed during:**
> **May, June, July, August, and September**

> ***Let outside temperatures and drought conditions guide your watering frequency.***

Signs Your Sod Needs More Water

- Gaps between sod rolls
- Browning or dryness
- A crunchy, brittle feel
- Grass entering dormancy

> **If any of these occur, increase watering immediately. Sod is resilient and will recover with proper care.**

Avoid Overwatering

> ***While hydration is crucial, too much water can cause problems like:***

- Mushy, soggy soil 3–4 hours after watering
- Persistent muddy patches
- Increased risk of fungus or root rot

> ***The key is balance: Keep the sod cool and moist—not dry and not muddy.***

Initial Watering Outside Summer Months

> ***Water should begin immediately after installation, even while sod is still being laid. As soon as one section is complete, start watering it thoroughly before moving to the next.***

- Ensure water soaks both the sod and at least 2 inches of soil below it.
- Check moisture by lifting a corner and pressing a finger into the soil.
- Eliminate air pockets with a full first watering to prevent drying from underneath.

> ***Pay special attention to corners and edges, as they tend to dry out faster. Hand watering in these areas is often helpful.***

> **If any area turns brown, don't panic—brown sod isn't always dead. Increase water in that section and monitor for green regrowth.**

Watering frequency varies with weather:

Cool weather = less water needed
Hot weather = more water needed

Both underwatering and overwatering can damage your sod. The goal is to find the right balance—keeping the soil consistently moist without becoming dry or soggy—for healthy, long-lasting results.

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As an agricultural sod producer, we offer recommendations based solely on our own experience with the specific varieties of sod we grow. Practices that work well for our sod may not apply to other grass types, climates, or conditions.

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