



# Lawn preparation & installation



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## Measuring for your lawn

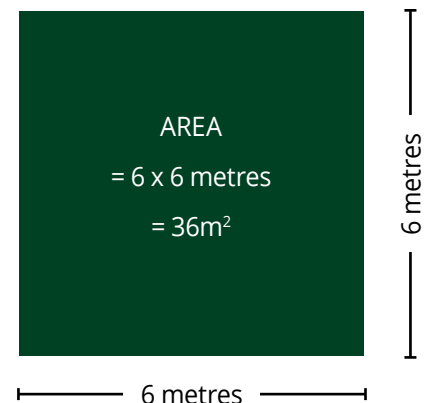

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When buying your new lawn use our simple guide below to **calculate how much you will need**. Any supplier of turf, such as a grower, will also assist you in helping calculate the amount of rolls or slabs you need to cover a specified area – but here are some easy methods to follow.

### Square and rectangle

Calculating the area for a square or rectangle is very simple. Get the overall width and the overall length of the square or rectangle, multiply the two and the result is the area for the square or rectangle.

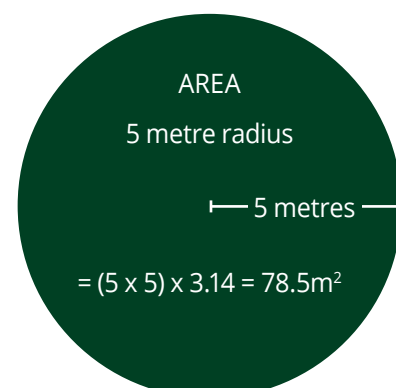
- **For example, a square:**  
6m (wide) x 6m (length) = 36m<sup>2</sup>
- **For example, a rectangle:**  
6m (wide) x 4m (length) = 24m<sup>2</sup>



### Circle

To calculate the amount of lawn you need in square metres (m<sup>2</sup>), measure the radius of the circle and multiple the (radius x radius) x 3.14.

- **For example:**  
radius of 5m (5 x 5) x 3.14 = 78.5m<sup>2</sup>



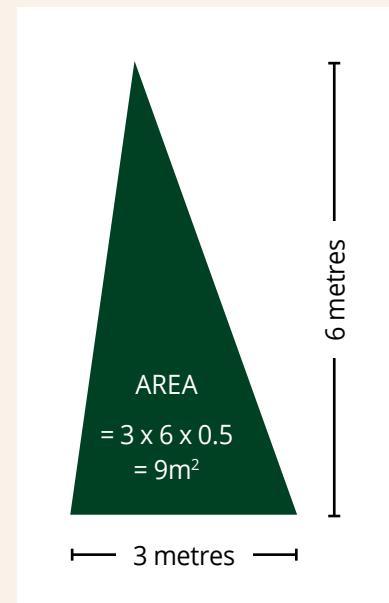
# Measuring for your lawn

## Triangle

Calculating the area for a triangle is done by getting the overall width and the overall length of the triangle, multiply the two and multiply by half and the result is the area of the triangle.

● **For example:**

$$3\text{m (wide)} \times 6\text{m (length)} \times 0.5 = 9\text{m}^2$$

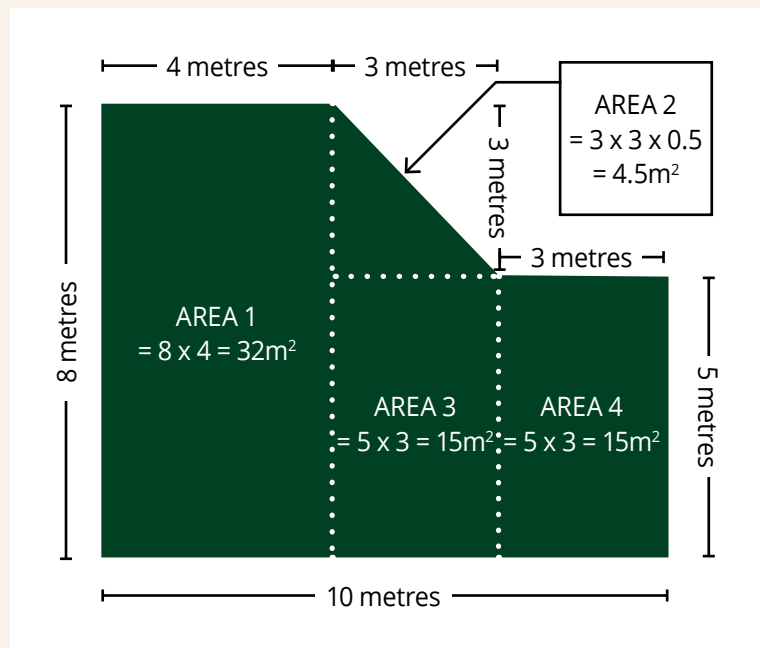


## Shapes

The area of a shape can be determined by simply breaking the shape into a set of squares, rectangles or triangles. Find the individual area and add them to give you the total area of the shape.

● **For example:**

AREA 1 = 8 x 4 metres =	32.0m <sup>2</sup>
AREA 2 = 3 x 3 x 0.5 metres =	4.5m <sup>2</sup>
AREA 3 = 5 x 3 metres =	15.0m <sup>2</sup>
AREA 4 = 5 x 3 metres =	15.0m <sup>2</sup>
TOTAL =	66.5m <sup>2</sup>



## Important:

ALWAYS remember to order extra!

For simple areas like a rectangle, order 5% extra. For more complex irregular areas, order 10% extra. This will allow for any slight miscalculations. It's better to have some turf left over than run out.

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## Preparing for your lawn

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Installing a new lawn yourself is easy – here are some simple steps to follow to create a thriving new lawn.

### Site preparation

- First, remove all existing grass and weeds with a recommended weed killer.
- For Couch use Fusilade Forte (*Fluazifop-p*) and for all other weeds, use Roundup (*Glyphosate*).
- Wait seven days after the first spray and then water to germinate any other weeds. If needed, repeat spraying and wait a further 14 days.
- Clear all debris from the site including rocks, building debris, dead lawn and weeds.
- To prevent drainage issues, ensure your soil gradient is completely flat. Or if you have a slope ensure the soil gradient slopes away from your house foundations or pathways.



### Watering systems

Now is the time to consider installing a watering system before you prepare and rake your soil.

There are two types of watering systems you could select – a traditional sprinkler-based system or a drip watering-system.

An automatic watering system will give you a greener, thicker lawn and save time and water.



## Preparing for your lawn

### Soil preparation

When preparing to lay your new lawn, good site and soil prep ensures a good result BUT great site and soil prep ensures a GREAT RESULT – the importance of preparing the site cannot be over emphasised.

For optimum growth your new lawn needs four things, three of which are obtained from the soil:

- Sunlight
- Air
- Water
- Nutrients

If your soil is clay-based, apply gypsum before rotary hoeing the site. For sandy-based soils apply compost or organic matter.

Adding organic matter to a sandy soil profile provides more density and adding a light clay to a sandy soil profile provides more water retention.

Rotary hoe your soil site with good lawn underlay that consists of 70% sand to 30% soil to a minimum of between 50mm to 100mm deep.

**How much soil do I get?** Use this formula:

- Lawn Area x Soil Depth x 1.6

Make sure you have worked out the area of lawn you need then multiply that figure by the depth of the soil, then multiply by 1.6

- **For example:**

52m<sup>2</sup> (Lawn Area) x 0.1 (100mm Soil Depth) x 1.6  
= 8.32 tonnes of soil



It is also vitally important you make sure you purchase a weed free soil and get a guarantee from the company your purchase the soil from.

Adding water retention products (crystals, peat) to a sandy loam soil profile will aid in water management after you lay your new lawn.

Soil preparation should be completed well ahead of laying your new turf to allow for soil development.

### Raking and levelling

Prepare your soil for the new lawn by raking it to a smooth level finish.

It is recommended you also apply some fertiliser, such as a good premium water-saving fertiliser with nutrient accelerator to enhance new growth.

Once you have your site properly prepared, give it a light watering to settle the soil.



## Installation

It is essential the turf be installed as soon as it's delivered, certainly nothing past two days as the longer the lawn is stacked on the pallet the more it becomes perishable.

- Lightly moisten the new soil surface before laying your new lawn, especially in warmer months.
- First begin installing your new lawn by following the longest straight line – such as a fence or paved area. You can also run a thin rope along the area to act as a guide.
- Roll the lawn ensuring all joins are tightly bound together with no overlapping.
- You can knock the rolls together with the back of a rack or shovel.
- To trim corners, use a shovel or a large sharp knife.
- If laying your new lawn on a slope – lay it across the slope.
- Once the lawn is completely installed roll the entire area with a lawn roller to improve the soil to lawn contact.

*Post laying care of your new turf is the most important part of the whole installation process. If done properly it reduces any chances of problems occurring!*



## Watering

Watering is an extremely important part of installing a new lawn. Water within 30 minutes of laying your new lawn.

For the first two weeks avoid heavy use of the lawn and water two to three times a day.

Root development can take up to six weeks depending on the type of turf so its important that this first six weeks (weather dependant) are full of a lot of TLC for your turf investment!

Once established different lawn types will have different care requirements depending on your lawn variety but it is essential during establishment that all turf types are well watered for the first 6 weeks

*Learn more here about how to water your new lawn with our [Watering new lawn Fact Sheet](#).*



## Post-installation care

### Mowing

You can start mowing your new lawn as soon as the turf is firmly rooted.

Generally new roots, depending on the season can take between 2 to 4 weeks to firmly establish – in cooler months this could be slightly longer.

Once your newly laid turf has established a root system into the soil you can mow, this generally is 2-3 weeks after it goes down.

Don't remove anything more than 1/3 of the leaf length so ensure your mower deck is on high.

Once established mow your lawn in line with the varieties requirements.

*For more information refer to [Mowing Fact Sheet](#).*



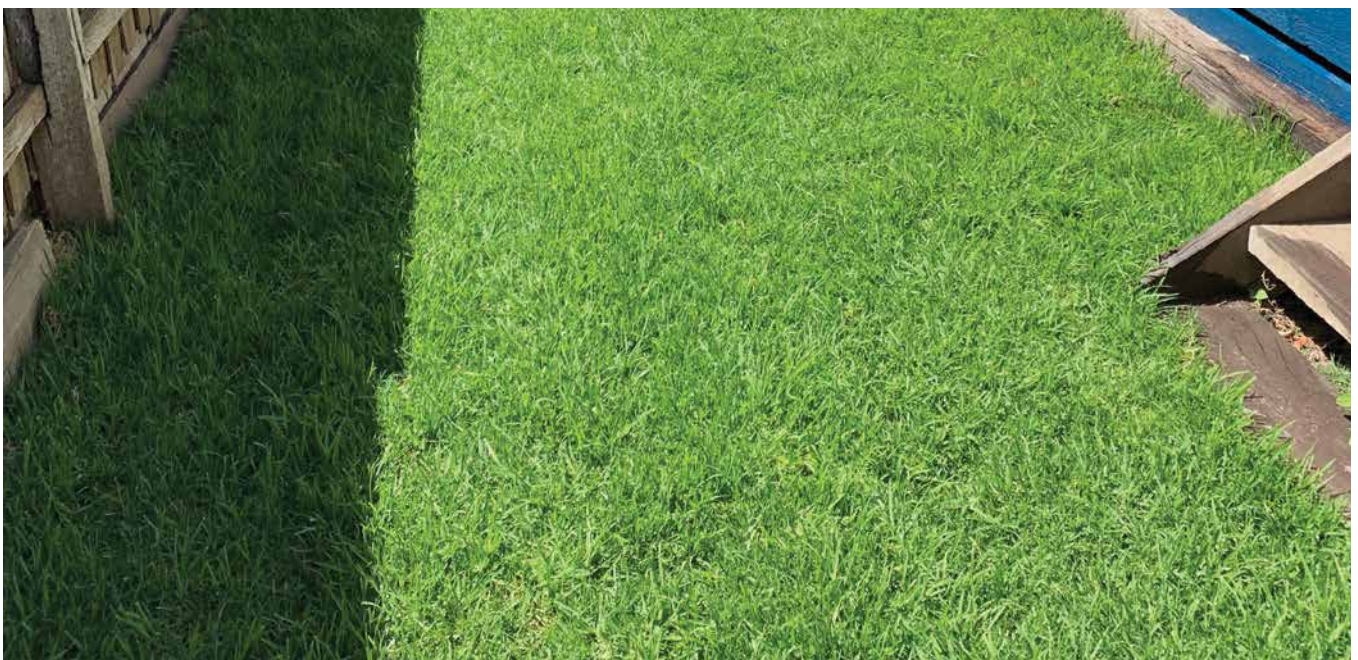
### Fertilising

After installation it is important to use a slow release fertiliser on your lawn once a month.

Once established, it's important you fertilise in each season:

- Early spring
- Early summer
- Late summer

*For more information refer to [Fertilising Fact Sheet](#).*



# Watering your new lawn



New lawns require special lawn care practices during their establishment phase, with the highest attention paid to the amount of water being applied.

The high-water requirements for new lawn is due to the fact that the lawn has no root system attached to the soil.

Some lawn types, such as Buffalo lawn, arrive with no root system whatsoever. And it's the lack of any root system, or root system within the soil which means the lawn cannot receive any water from the soil.

It's for this reason that new lawns will need to be kept wet at all times during establishment.

Without the added water being applied, the new sod would, otherwise, very quickly dry out and die.

## Judging how much water to apply to new lawns

The amount of water which will need to be applied to a new lawn will change depending on the conditions at the property where the lawn was laid.

The principle involved will always be the same - which is to keep the new lawn wet at all times.

Because you will water several times a day, and you are not requiring a deep watering which travels deeply into the soil profile, watering times can be briefer than if you were watering an established lawn.

Rule of thumb - new lawns need to be watered every day and sometimes more than once a day to keep soil moist. Do not allow the top 1.5cm of the soil to become dry until the grass is about 2.5cm tall.

Once the lawn is 2.5cm tall, water every other day until grass is established (approximately three to four weeks).

Once the lawn is established, revert to watering 1-2



times a week for a total of approximately 25mm of water.

The best time to water your lawn is early in the morning between 4am to 10am.

Early morning lawn watering is best because there is less wind to blow the water away and less sunlight to evaporate it. It also discourages disease by giving the lawn the rest of the day to dry out.

# Watering your new lawn

## Installing in:

### Dry hot weather

New lawns which are laid during the heat of summer require the greatest amount of water which may be as often as 4 times a day in the first week.

### Warm weather

Warmer weather in the high 20°Cs to early 30°Cs will require the new lawn to be watered a little less frequently, which may be around 3 times a day.

### Cooler weather

Cool weather requires less water again and may be as low as 1 - 2 waterings a day.

### Rainy weather

During cool rainy weather, it is likely that the new roll on lawn will require no extra watering by the homeowner in addition to what it is already receiving naturally from the rain.



## Monitor the new lawn at all times

An exact lawn watering schedule for new lawns will always be the judgement call of the lawn owner while following the golden rule of keeping the lawn wet at all times.

So the homeowner will need to adjust the watering program themselves dependent on the weather at the property where the new lawn was laid.

The lawn should be monitored to ensure the ongoing health of the new lawn.

The lawn should remain green and growing, if it begins to brown-off at any time - then the lawn may require more watering than it is receiving.

So it is simply a case of increasing watering times or frequencies.



## Reducing your watering

The highest requirement for water will be in the first week of the new lawn being laid.

Watering can then be reduced as the following weeks progress and the root system of the lawn becomes more established.

The lawn will most often be fully reduced to a standard watering schedule by the end of week four to six.

Remember if you are in a state where water restrictions apply please check details with the appropriate Water Corporation.

