

WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

The following is a list of watering instructions for different types of landscaping installations and/or repairs. Please follow the instructions that apply to your situation.

1. Reseeding. If your lawn was reseeded, please see that the new seed is watered one to two times a day depending on heat conditions. Keep the ground where the seed was installed moist. If you see that the ground has dried out, rewater. However, do not over water, since it will wash the seed and soil away. Frequent light waterings are required. Once the seed has germinated, in approximately 2-3 weeks, continue to water on a daily basis. Heavier watering is acceptable now. Once the new grass plants have matured, the turf will require 1" of water per week, whether provided by sprinkler or Mother Nature. Grass seed is a mix of different varieties, and some will germinate faster than others, usually between 10-21 days.
2. Seed Mat Repairs. Seed mat is a fibrous material that contains grass seed. If your lawn has been repaired with seed mat, please keep the seed mat moist. You can follow the instructions pertaining to regular seed above. The fibrous material will disintegrate over time, however, once the new grass plants begin to grow, you can manually remove the material, if you desire. Once the new grass plants have reached maturity, they can be watered the same as the rest of your lawn by providing 1" of water per week.
3. Sod. If your lawn is repaired by sod, the new sod needs extensive amounts of water to survive. That may mean watering the sod more than one time per day. You should water the sod until it becomes squishy under foot. To test whether the sod is knitting into the subsoil beneath it, gently lift up after a week or so to see if there is any root resistance. Once you can feel the root resistance, you know that the sod is taking hold. Once you determine the sod is taking root, you can cut back on the amount of watering. We suggest you reduce the watering to every other day, and as the sodded areas begin to blend with the rest of the lawn, every third day. Do not let the sod completely dry out. Once the sod has knitted into the ground, and is firmly rooted, you may apply 1" of water per week accordingly.
4. Shrubs and Trees. If you received a new shrub or tree, the best way to water that type of plant material is to insert your garden hose into the root ball at the 12 o'clock, 3 o'clock, 6 o'clock, and 9 o'clock positions around the plant. Remove the hose when the water starts to bubble up out of the ground. It is important that you water new plants daily for the first 3 weeks. After that, continue to water in the manner mentioned whenever you see the ground around the shrub is no longer damp. It is much better to root water new plants, then to surface water them. Surface watering sits on the leaves, and evaporates quickly. In addition, wetting the leaves can attract fungus. Therefore, the best technique is to root water the new plants. Once the plant has become established, it will only require 1" of water per week.

In essence, 95% of the success of your lawn, shrubbery and trees is the result of proper watering. In order to determine how long it takes to lay down 1" of water, we suggest placing a pie pan on your lawn and timing the sprinkler to see how long it takes to fill the pie pan with 1" of water. Further, 1" of water per week is a minimum standard. In times of drought, plants and turf have natural defense mechanisms to stop evaporation. You may see leaf wilt or plants drop leaves, and turf go dormant, which turns the grass plants brown. These defensive techniques will bring the plant material through some difficult climatic situations. However, in times of continuous heat and drought, please water the plants and turf. The defense mechanisms mentioned above will only save the material for so long. They need to be watered accordingly.

Finally, most communities have watering restrictions. Be sure to contact your local municipality to find out when it is legal to water. There may be certain exceptions to restrictions, and those usually apply to new sod, seed or new trees and shrubs. Your community may require permits.