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SPECTRUM Landscape/ Playground Turf Installation Guide

Updated May 1, 2025 (replaces June 16, 2023)

Tools Needed: Utility Knife, Landscape Rake or soil spreader, Hammer, Shovel, Wheelbarrow, Vibratory Plate Compactor, Hand Tamper, Sod-Cutter, Post Hole Digger.

1. Receiving Turf

- **IMPORTANT** be sure to inspect rolls before installation.
 - If visible damage is observed, take photos, document visible damage and email to claims.
- Forklift with a carpet pole is recommended for unloading rolls, but not required.

2. Preparing Turf for Install

- Roll out turf and allow to acclimate for at least 24 hours.

3. Safety Factors to Keep in Mind

- Be sure no reflective objects or windows are around the install area; reflection can melt the turf.
- It is always a good idea for a customer to sign a document that makes them aware of this liability.
- Light reflection/ melting of the turf is NOT covered by manufacture warranty.
- When removing any sod/ earth be aware of any electrical, plumbing, or sprinkler systems that may cause property damage.
- Have an access plan for the insulation area (narrow walkways, flower beds etc.)

4. Preparing Base for installation

- Remove the existing grass w/ sod cutter and or shovel.
- Note* Sod Cutter is most efficient.
- Using a landscape rake smooth out the now cleared earth.
- Add weed barrier, if necessary, over install area
- Before going farther take note and plan for proper grading of the crushed rock to promote proper water drainage. (French drains, or additional drainage may be called for).

5. Preparing Rock Base

- You will need 3-4 inches of $\frac{3}{4}$ minus crushed stone. Do not use prewashed stone. Compact every 2 inches.
- Top layer will be 2-3 inches of $\frac{1}{4}$ minus stone dust. Names for this material vary across the country. The important thing to note is the size of the stone.
- Once again please do not use prewashed stone.

6. Preparing edging for installation

- Each installation will require the turf to be secured to the base below whether it be crushed stone, concrete, or asphalt.
- For securing landscape over crushed stone there are three known methods to secure the turf which are as follows.



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1. Simply drive 6 inch ungalvanized nails every six to eight inches around the perimeter.
 - The ungalvanized nails will rust in the ground reducing the likelihood of the nail coming back up through the turf.
 - This is an older method, but still efficient and used today.
 - In regions where the ground freezes and thaws it is more likely that the nail will be exposed through the grass fibers.
 - We do not recommend this method for applications that have children or pets.
2. Install a nailer board around the edge of the installation area. This nailer board could be various products or materials. These materials include but are not limited to; pressure treated wood, treks decking, and plastic landscape edging.
 - NOTE* you will want these nailer boards to be flush to the top of the compacted stone dust, but exposed so you can secure (staple, or screw) to the edging.
3. Concrete edging
 - In this case you will dig a 6-inch-deep 4-inch-wide trench around the install following any curves or change in direction.
 - Fill this area with quick drying concrete. The concrete needs to be flush with the top of the crush stone.
 - The 4 inch wide exposed concrete will be glued to the 4 inch of turf that will overhang the crushed stone base.
 - This method is great for areas that are not perfectly square. Please keep in mind the depth of the ditch may vary depending on ground freezing in your region of the country.

7. Installing the Turf

- Now that the turf has been rolled out and acclimated for 24 hours.
- Position the turf with fibers all pointing in the same direction
- Fibers pointing at or along side the most visible are for the project are recommended, this will create a more natural appeal, by reducing shine.
- Trim off the selvedge edge, by counting in three tufted rows.
- A tufted row is simply where you see the yarn loop through the backing
- NOTE* always cut from the back with a fresh blade.
- Line up rolls where needed and prepare for seaming.

8. Seaming your Rolls (use Spectrum SEAMCLOTH 55 with Bostik ProCure or Taylor Resolute Adhesive)

- Fold back both edges of the turf, preferably 18 inches on side to make room for seam cloth.
- Center seam cloth (seam cloth is 12 in wide) between both rolls.
- Pin down the seam cloth on each end to prevent movement, use either a nail or U-shaped landscape staple.



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- Spread adhesive with a 3/16 V notch trowel 8 inches wide along the seam. Be careful not to get the adhesive on the stone dust. It will clump and will be visible under the turf.
- When closing the seam be sure to close the side of the turf that is pointing away from the seam first. This will ensure that no fibers are caught in the adhesive causing blemishes. Once the first side is closed bring the other side next to it.
- Once the seams are closed use a water drum roller on the seams to ensure the adhesive is making good contact with backing.
- NOTE* you can also slowly walk on the seam.
- Repeat as needed for each additional seam.

9. Final Touches

- Trim turf around trees or obstacles as needed.
- Be sure all seams are intact and all edging is secured.
- Remove all nails, screws, staples, and tools are removed from the install area.

10. Top Dressing the Product (if needed)

- Use a power broom (preferred) or hard bristled broom against the direction of the fibers in order for the grass to stand up.
- Use a drop seed spreader to apply infill evenly throughout the project area.
- The recommended infill for most landscape products is Crystal Bright 20/40 infill available in 50lb bags provided by ACF-GARDNER.
- Most landscape products require 2 lbs. per square foot of infill
- Please check with your ACF-GARDNER rep for specific infill amounts for specific products.
- Repeat brooming and spreading infill until all infill is worked into the turf fibers.

11. Final Walk Through

- Be sure all tools and equipment are removed from the project area.
- Review the installation with the customer.
- Take photos from different angles and heights. For examples squatted beside the turf or from balcony that overlooks the site. Get pets in the photos if present.
- Make note of any project hurdles or successes.
- Send photos as well as a brief recap of the project to ACF-GARDNER, so the marketing team can showcase your job and company.
- Once the installation is complete stay off the turf for 24 hours.

12. Playground Pad

- ACF-GARDNER offers playground padding in a 1 inch and 2-inch variety. This is to be used in an open area around playground equipment. The padding is installed under the turf.
- The panels are 4'x5', they are permeable to allow water to drain through.
- To install the panels over the crushed stone, lay them side by side and cut around playground equipment and trees as necessary.
- To best secure the tiles to each other use heavy duty commercial tape.
- After installing playground panels. Proceed to section 9&10.