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TIPS TO CARE FOR YOUR NEW SOD

Thank you for your patience during the construction process. One of the last steps is the restoration of your lawn. Snow Contracting will install new sod in disturbed areas within the next few weeks.

After installation, Snow Contracting will maintain the new sod for 30 days, extending maintenance until Spring 2026 due to late sodding. Once this period ends, sod condition will be reviewed and repaired if necessary. If no repairs are needed, future care becomes the homeowner's responsibility.

To give the sod its best opportunity to thrive, here are a few tips:

Watering

Snow Contracting will water the sod during the maintenance period by practicing heavy, infrequent watering to help drive the root system deeper. During the contract maintenance period additional watering can be performed by you, following the guidelines listed below. After the maintenance period, watering and maintenance of the sod is the homeowner's responsibility. Your help will greatly increase the success of the newly placed sod.

A rule of thumb for watering a mature lawn is a minimum of 1 inch of water per week. New sod requires 2 inches per week, completed over three or four applications. Any rainfall received during the week can be included in the 2 inches per week watering total. An easy way to check your watering progress is to stick a screwdriver into the soil, and if the soil sticks to the screwdriver at the three to four inch mark, you are doing a good job. Never let your lawn go dormant or brown for the first two years. However, if your lawn turns a bright yellow, reduce your watering for a short time as your lawn maybe getting too much water.

You can double check if you are watering your sod enough by placing a shallow, flat-bottomed container under a sprinkler and measuring the water depth in the container. You should expect to continue watering the new sod for the remainder of the summer and fall.

Mowing

Try to stay off your new sod for the first week or two and do not mow it for several weeks. Begin mowing when you cannot gently pull on the sod and lift it up off the ground. Don't pull hard it enough to rip the roots, but rather gently tug at it. Prior to mowing the new sod, set the mower deck at the highest setting and keep it at this length for the remainder of the year. It is also advisable to let the sod grow a little longer than normal during dry weather conditions.

Fertilizing

Your new sod was fertilized before shipment; therefore, it will not need fertilizer until the fall or next spring. Monitor the color of the sod. Next spring, when it starts to fade, apply a light coat of fertilizer every 4-6 weeks. When you fertilize, use a 10-10-10, 12-12-12 or similar mixture and follow the manufacturer's instructions for application rates. If you are unsure of the amount needed, you may want to complete an annual soil test. Disturbed soils from construction activities tend to need more fertilizer for the first five years. Without fertilizer, the grass may become thin and weak, allowing for the growth of weeds.

Future Maintenance

Remember, even after your new sod appears to have taken hold, it is not as sturdy as an established lawn. It takes an entire year for the roots to realize their full length. Until the roots are mature, the sod is still vulnerable in dry conditions. It's advisable to water deeply and let the sod grow a little longer than normal when conditions are dry. Fertilize as described above if the sod begins to lose its dark green color.