

Our guide on installing artificial grass provides all the knowledge you need to lay your fake lawn yourself. While the installation can be tricky, being well-prepared and using the right tools will make the process much more manageable.

How to install artificial grass to replace your existing natural lawn

- **Plan the Area**

Before beginning, plan the space you want to cover. Make sure any cables or water pipes are located below the intended digging depth. It's also a good idea to allow an extra 5cm around the borders. For example, if your grass is 4m x 6m, mark out 3.95m x 5.95m to leave room for adjustments.

- **Remove Existing Turf**

Dig out the old lawn to a depth of about 6 inches using a turf cutter and digging tools. After excavation, compact the soil with a wacker plate until it's firm and level.

- **Install Edging (if needed)**

If there are no natural borders to secure the grass against, create a frame using treated timber. Hammer the edging into the ground using a mallet and a piece of wood, leaving around 3cm above ground. This provides a secure edge to tuck the grass against and hide the backing.

- **Build a Solid Base**

A strong base is essential for a lasting lawn. After removing the turf, clear out any large stones, bricks, or debris. Fill the area with about 4 inches of hardcore or aggregate to form a sturdy yet permeable base. Compact it using a wacker plate. Then add a couple of inches of granite dust or sharp sand for comfort. Use a wooden board to level and smooth the surface.

- **Apply Weed Membrane**

Once the base is compacted, lay down weed control fabric to stop unwanted growth while still allowing drainage. Trim the edges neatly. If more than one sheet is needed, overlap them and secure with gaffer tape. *(Note: If pets will be using the lawn regularly, place the membrane below the hardcore layer to reduce odour absorption.)*

- **Roll Out the Grass**

Carefully roll out your artificial grass over the prepared area, making sure not to shift the membrane beneath. For best results, lay the grass so the pile faces toward the house—this usually gives the most natural look from indoors.

- **Secure the Edges**

Part the blades to reveal the black backing and hammer in 4-inch galvanized nails every 30cm around the perimeter. You can also screw the edges into the treated timber border if you've created one, for extra stability.

How to install artificial grass on a hard surface

- **Clean the Surface Thoroughly**

Before installing artificial grass, make sure the surface is completely clean. Remove all dust, grease, and grime to help the adhesive bond effectively.

- **Let the Turf Settle**

As with any artificial grass installation, unroll the turf and allow it to settle for at least an hour. This helps the grass regain its shape after being compressed during storage.

- **Install Weed Membrane or Underlay**

Once the surface is clean, lay down any required weed membrane or underlay. If you're using multiple strips of membrane, ensure a minimum 10cm overlap where they meet. If using underlay, walk over it gently to flatten it out and give it time to settle before laying the grass.

- **Trim and Secure the Grass**

After the turf has relaxed, trim it to fit your space. Then, apply a specially formulated adhesive—such as Aquabond—in a zigzag pattern along the edges of the grass backing, as close to the perimeter as possible. Carefully position the grass, stretch it taut to remove any creases or air pockets, and let the adhesive cure for 2–3 hours. *Note: Artificial grass usually has a grain or "pile direction" that affects how it looks from different viewpoints. For the best appearance, align the pile toward your main viewing area.*

- **Final Touches**

Once the grass is secured and the adhesive has cured, brush the pile against the grain using a stiff-bristled brush to lift and enhance its natural look.

How to install artificial grass with joins

- **Prepare the Join**

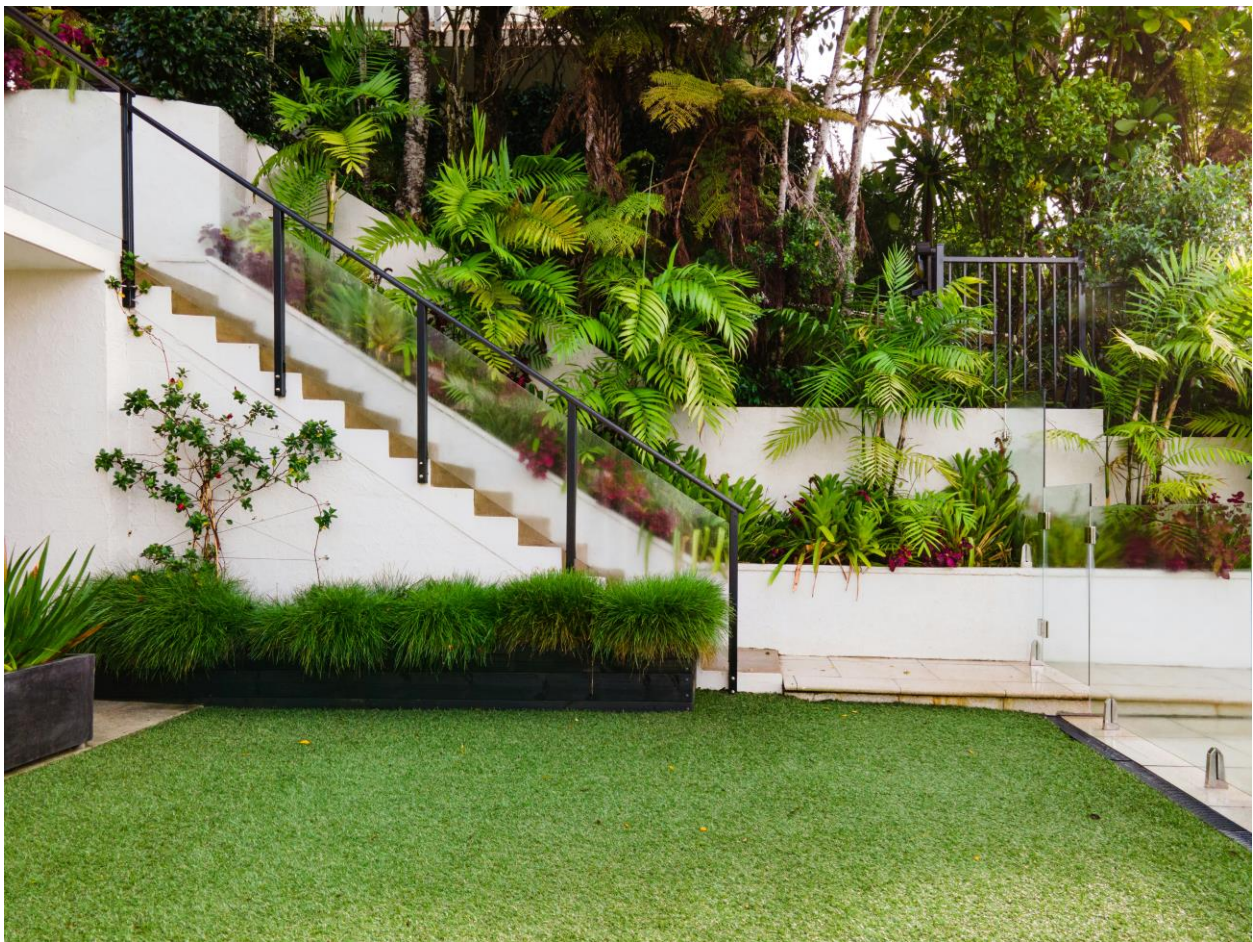
If your installation requires joining two pieces of turf, place them next to each other, making sure the pile runs in the same direction. Fold back about 30–40cm from each edge along the seam. Then, trim 20–30mm off each edge by cutting between the tufts for a clean, natural-looking join.

- **Apply Joining Tape and Adhesive**

Roll out the joining tape with the shiny side facing down, centered along the full length of the seam so that there's equal tape under each side. Apply adhesive to each edge of the turf backing in two lines—one around 10mm in and the other about 40mm in. Fold one side of the turf carefully onto the tape, followed by the other, taking care not to trap any blades beneath the seam. Leave a small gap of 2–3mm between the edges for the most seamless appearance. For best results, place weighted boards or planks over the seam to help the turf bond evenly.

- **Let the Adhesive Set**

Allow the adhesive to cure for 2–3 hours before walking on or brushing the grass.



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