

New Sod Week by Week: First 30 Days Care Guide

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Quick Reference Guide

1 Day 1: water within 30 minutes of last roll going down

Saturate fully. Water is pooling at seams slightly = enough. Check by lifting a corner: top 2-3 cm of soil beneath should be moist.

2 Week 1: water every morning, 20 to 30 minutes per zone

Add afternoon session if temperatures are above 25 degrees Celsius. Never water in the evening - this promotes fungal disease.

3 Week 1: zero foot traffic on new sod

No people, no pets, no shortcuts across the lawn. One walking path can take months to recover from.

4 Day 10 to 14: perform the tug test

Grab a sod seam and pull firmly. If it resists, roots have knitted. If it lifts easily, keep watering daily and test again in 3 to 4 days.

5 After tug test passes: first mow at 7.5 to 8 cm

Sharp mower blade only. Remove no more than one-third of the blade. Leave clippings on the lawn.

6 After tug test passes: reduce watering to every other day

Encourage deep root growth by letting soil dry slightly between sessions. This builds a more drought-tolerant lawn.

7 Week 3 and beyond: deep water 2.5 cm twice per week

Early morning only. If using an irrigation system, run it long enough to penetrate 15 cm into the soil.

8 After first month: apply slow-release fertilizer if needed

Only if starter fertilizer was NOT applied before installation. Check with your installer what was used before adding anything.

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