



# How to Install Smiling Rock's Artificial Grass

When it comes to a huge area to landscape, just thinking about the work load and time commitment for artificial grass to be installed may be alarming.

But not to worry! Just follow this easy 4-step artificial lawn installation guide and you'll be looking down proudly at your newly done-up backyard in no time.

- ✓ *NO MORE weeding or fertilising!*
- ✓ *NO MORE mowing!*
- ✓ *NO MORE high water bills!*



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**A home to smile about**



# 1 Excavation of existing area

Once you have marked out the area for your new synthetic lawn, remove the existing lawn (and soil) up to a depth of 70mm, and be ready to fill the area with 60mm of blue metal dust. If prepping for a medium-to-high vehicular traffic area (such as the verge), clear the area to a depth of 100mm, fill with 80mm of road base, and 10mm of blue metal dust. If reticulation is present it is simply a matter of capping each pop up sprinkler.



Tip: It is well worth hiring a turf-cutter if you have existing lawn to remove, which will save you a considerable amount of time and effort. Don't forget to hire a skip bin for the disposal of soil and leftover aggregate.

Calculating the right amount of aggregate to order is simple.

For example: If your total area is 40sqm, multiply it by the thickness of roadbase/cracker dust in mm. (e.g 0.06 for 60mm or 0.09 for 90mm (80mm roadbase + 10mm cracker dust).

So  $40 \times 0.06 = 2.4$  cubic metres is the amount of cracker dust you'll need.

The same equation applies to bin size.

# 2 Installing the base

It's time to compact the base for your artificial lawn. Fill the area with blue metal dust. Carefully screed the area and thoroughly compact it using a vibrating plate compactor. (Compacting will bring the thickness down approx. 10mm). Lightly dampen the area with water to help bind the dust, which will allow you to identify any sunken areas that needs to be filled as you go. Compact for the second time.



Tip: Spend extra time on the base work as the result will be the difference between an average installation job and a professional installation! Try to give the area some contour and body because an overly flat lawn can look "fake".

# 3 Installing the synthetic lawn



Synthetic lawn is manufactured with the fibres aligned in a single direction. Hence, it is very important to ensure that the grains are running in the same direction when laying out the full pieces of lawn. Cut your lawn to the desired shape with a sharp Stanley knife, depending on your area there may be joins where the pieces meet. Hence, you will need to ensure that the seams are cut as close to the "rib" or "grain" to allow for better placement of the two pieces when joining later.

First, lay the lawn down and cut, leaving about 100mm around all the edges before placing the lawn together so that the joins are not visible. This may vary slightly from one lawn to another. Stand back and take a look before joining together. Trust your eyes! Now that you are happy with everything, fold back each piece about 400mm and lay the joining tape (adhesive side up) down the centre of the two pieces. Using lawn pins anchor the tape down at each end. Peel off the protection tape of the adhesive and simply place the two pieces back together.

Once done, trim all the edges (Again remember to leave 30mm-50mm excess on the perimeter), pin around the outside edges approx 30mm in and 50cm apart. You may also pin either side of the joining tape for extra strength.



Tip: Take care not to trap the blades of lawn under the pins.

# 4 Filling with white sand

For the optimum look, brush the artificial lawn up with a stiff garden broom against the grain. Spread the washed white sand over the lawn as evenly as possible either by hand or shovel. Brush each lot to distribute the sand evenly. Aim for a depth of approximately 5-10mm depending on the pile height of the lawn. (Note: always start with less sand and add more as you go along if you feel the need to). Job well done!



Tip: The sand infill is very important so do not compromise. Not only does it improve the look of the lawn but also more importantly it protects the backing from the UV rays.