



The 7 Deadly Sins of Watering New Sod

Super Sod and Overstream pride themselves in delivering fresh cut sod of the highest quality. However, it is important to remember that turfgrass is a perishable product and will require ongoing care and maintenance from the moment it is delivered. We have found in our many years of experience that most sod failures come as a result of improper watering.

1. **Soil too dry and/or too hot:** In hot dry weather, bare soil can reach a temperature of 120 degrees. You should lightly sprinkle the soil with water prior to laying out the sod. This will cool the soil temperature and also add moisture to the soil.
2. **Improper coverage:** Prior to installing your sod, be sure that sprinkler or irrigation heads are working properly, and are adjusted to cover all pieces of the newly installed sod. It is important that all areas of the sod receive water.
3. **Waiting too long for the first watering:** Your new sod will need watering right away. Don't make it wait for its first drink. Every piece of sod should receive water within 30 minutes of being rolled out. This usually means supplemental watering by hand as the rolls are laid down.
4. **Going too long between watering:** The key to proper watering of new sod is light watering on a frequent basis. The new sod layers can only absorb and hold a small amount of water. In hot dry weather, water can be used up quickly. Therefore, your sod requires frequent, but light watering to maintain moisture in the sod layer.
5. **Too little water:** Usually the "sin" of too little water is actually a problem of not watering frequently enough. Start by determining how long it takes your sprinkler or irrigation system to soak the water through to the back side of the sod layer. This is the amount of time you should water at each application. Should you find that your sod is getting dry, add an additional application of water sometime during the day.
6. **Too much water:** Too much water can kill sod just as too little water. Do not irrigate to a point that you get standing water. Should this happen, cut down on the length of time you are watering. You may need to add another application of water and cutting down on the amount of time that you water. This results in giving the sod the same amount of water, but over a longer period of time. Please note that there is no set pattern for watering. Environmental conditions such as heat, rain, and humidity can all have an effect on your sod's watering needs. You should monitor these conditions, and adjust the amount of water and watering time as needed.
7. **Fungus:** Fungus occurs and spreads in warm, moist conditions. To reduce the risk of fungus, complete all your watering applications at least one hour before sundown, avoid standing water (over watering), and apply a fungicide on a regular basis. Once the grass has fully rooted, it will require less frequent, but deeper/longer watering. For more details, refer to the guidelines on "When and How To Water an Established Lawn".