

Preparing and Installing your own artificial grass garden



Tools and products required:

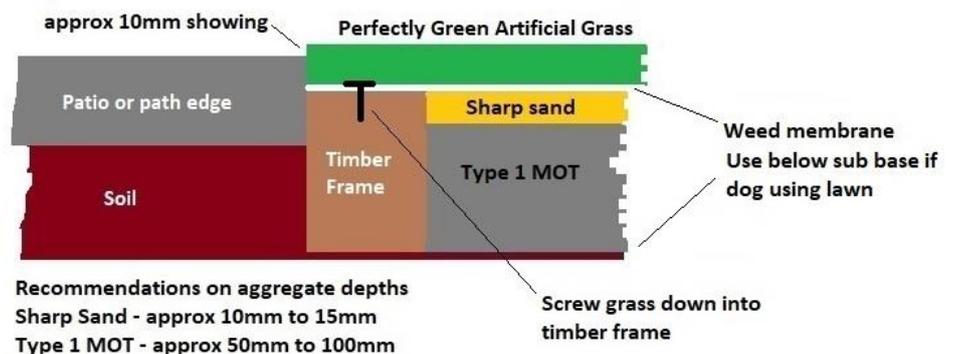
- Mallet
- Timber and pegs for base perimeter
- Electric screwdriver and screws
- Delphin or Stanley knife with spare blades
- Power brush or stiff brush to raise the pile once the grass is installed
- Turf cutter or shovel to remove existing natural turf
- Rake to spread and level aggregate
- Wacker plate or roller
- 1 or 2 layers of weed membrane
- Sharp sand or Grano Dust for laying surface
- Type 1 aggregate, primary material for subbase
- Artificial grass to cover area required
- Glue to join seams (only required where rolls of grass are to be joined)
- Joining tape (only required where rolls of grass are to be joined)
- Toothed trowel (required to spread glue if glue and tape is required to join rolls)
- Skip (may be required for removal of natural turf)

It's vital to prepare a suitable base to ensure that the installation is long lasting, stable and not liable to flooding or movement:

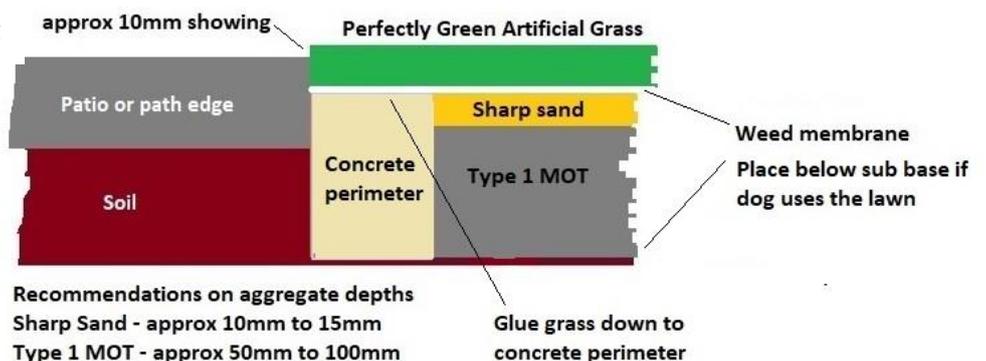
Typical Base Detail for Artificial Grass Preparation

If using treated timber

Note: Granite Dust is preferred by many, in place of Sharp sand.



If using concrete haunching



1. Remove existing turf



Remove the existing turf and soil using either a turf cutter or shovel. It is best to remove the turf to a depth of 2 – 3.5 inches. Free draining lawns will require a 2-inch base, whereas poor draining lawns will require a 3 to 4 inch base.

2. Clear room for the sub-base



With all turf removed, the area is ready for the sub-base to be installed. The area should be edged by a timber frame, or concrete haunching, which provides a firm edge to hold the base material in place and a secure fixing point for the artificial grass. The timber edge should be fitted approximately 10mm below the surrounding level, depending of the pile height of your chosen artificial grass.

3. Lay the weed membrane & fill area with aggregate



Install the first layer of geotextile weed membrane on top of the soil. This will prevent the sub-base sinking into the mud. It is best to fill the area with Type 1, sometimes known as MOT (crushed stone) or Grano Dust. For Clay or Boggy soil use between 65-100mm of Type 1, for free draining soil 50mm. A Grano Dust base of around 40mm will be sufficient.

What our customers say?

“Initially we wanted to pay for someone to come and install the artificial grass for us, doing all the preparation work as well. But we spoke with Perfectly Green who gave us excellent assistance and advice, including a step by step guide, so we did the work ourselves. We were thrilled with the outcome and saved ourselves money at the same time...” - Mr A Seymour

4. Level the area



Make sure the Type 1 or Grano Dust is evenly spread and smooth off any lumps with a rake. The Type 1 should be raked level with top of the timber perimeter edging and then compacted with a wacker plate. Compact the Type 1 with a wacker plate and blind off with a thin layer of Sharp Sand. If using Grano Dust, no Sharp Sand is required, Grano Dust when compacted gives a smooth enough finish



Using a wacker plate, make sure that all the Type 1 is compacted to a smooth finish. This should lower the Type 1 to approximately 10mm below the top edge of the perimeter timber. Now spread on the sharp sand and compact with a wacker plate, screed off to a smooth finish level with the top of the timber edging.

Note: Grano Dust is coarser than sharp sand, so binds very effectively to create a great laying surface for the membrane and artificial grass. Sharp sand may have a tendency to move in the medium and long term so Grano Dust offers a good option to avoid that issue.



When using Grano Dust no sharp sand is required so top of compacted surface should be level with top of timber edging.

6. Install a second layer of weed membrane



Install the second layer of geotextile weed membrane and secure to the top of the timber edging with screws or staples. This will prevent any weed growth. Use a Stanley knife to cut the membrane to the required layout.

7. Install the artificial grass

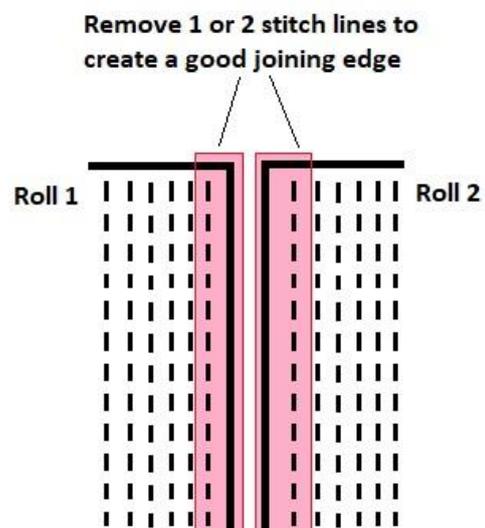


Lay the artificial grass out and leave to settle flat. Once you are happy that the grass is flat and settled, you can then cut it to shape using a sharp Stanley knife. Blades will need to be changed approximately every three metres of cutting.

8. Join pieces of artificial turf together



When joining two pieces of grass together, cut evenly down the side of a stitch line on each roll of grass, perhaps 1 or 2 stitch lines in from the edge of the roll. Butt the two pieces together and check the join. It is quite possible there is still some trimming to be done.



Once you are happy the two pieces of grass are butted up exactly, and that the join is not visible, fold both pieces back and lay the joining tape (shiny side down) evenly between them. Apply the glue evenly to the middle 5 inches of the joining tape and spread with a fine-toothed trowel. Carefully fold both pieces back in to place and apply gentle pressure to the join. Make sure the glue is not too thick or it will push through the join or the drainage holes. Insert 1 screw either side of the new join to ensure that the grass remains in place while outer edges are being trimmed.

If using our glue tubes you can use a mastic gun to apply the glue to the joining tape. If using 8kg tubs of Wetbond or Profix you'll need to pour the glue from the tub on to the joining tape and smooth it out using a trowel or similar straight edge. Apply the glue evenly down the tape creating a 4 to 5 inch wide run for the best adhesion. Do not 'zig zag' the glue as the adhesion will be insufficient.

9. Secure edges



Now you can trim the edges. This is easiest done using a sharp Delphin knife. Change blades regularly for ease of cutting – this will result in a better quality installation with cleaner joins and edges.

Once trimming is complete the artificial grass can be fixed to the timber perimeter, either by screwing (recommended) or stapling. With either option please be sure to open the pile of the grass where the fixing is made to prevent damage or catching of pile. This should be done every 4 inches.

10. Installation should be complete



Once you have secured the perimeter, step back and review the installation. It may take a little time for the grass to acclimatise but your project is almost ready. We suggest that you that you do not to use the area for 12 hours or suggest to your client that they do not use the area for 12 hours.

Important Note: *if installing artificial grass onto decking, patio or concrete...* the preparation is very straightforward!! Just clean and dry the surface, glue down some 10mm Perfectly Green Playpad underlay and glue the grass to the underlay! With concrete or slabs you may need to drill some drainage holes. Just contact us if any questions... call **01825 729259** or email sales@perfectlygreen.co.uk

If you have any issues or want any advice on artificial grass installation, then contact a member of our team at:

01825 729259 or email tradeenquiries@perfectlygreen.co.uk for trade enquiries

01825 729389 or email homeenquiries@perfectlygreen.co.uk for residential/homeowner enquiries

