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Eco Alliance has gone to great lengths to ensure we have developed a robust, durable, and value conscious artificial grass installation methodology. We developed our approach to artificial grass installations during our years as an artificial grass and artificial putting green installer. We have had years to evaluate its effectiveness and have proven results that have withstood the test of time. We offer artificial grass installation videos – available on CD in both English and Spanish. If you would like to purchase a copy of the video for a nominal fee visit our Contact Us page. You can also attend installation classes hosted by our vast distribution network to include Exclusive Territory Holder Dealers and over 600 John Deere Landscape Supply stores. Remember – we recommend you have a licensed contractor, experienced in the installation of synthetic grasses, familiar with local requirements/codes/ordinances, perform your artificial grass installation.

As with any home improvement project, proper installation is required to achieve high quality results. Installation will take approximately 2 days for the first 500 Sq Ft + an additional day for every additional 300 Sq Ft. You should not perform your artificial grass installation when the temperature is cooler than 50 degrees F.

### Artificial Grass Installation Measurement

- Measure the length and width of the installation area in feet. Artificial grasses come in a variety of widths – most commonly in 13' or 15' widths. Your artificial grass must be installed with the grain facing the same direction, preferably facing the viewer's perspective. Determine the most efficient way to utilize your sections with the least LF of seaming. Measure your artificial grass installation twice before ordering! Account for waste – remember you must purchase the grass in fixed widths and you need to seam in the same direction. For the most accurate measurement we recommend you do your calculations in sections. Example: Section 1: 13 ft. X 35 ft. = 455 sq. ft., Section 2: 13 ft. X 25 ft. = 325 sq. ft., Add 455 sq. ft. to 325 sq. ft. for a total of 780 sq. ft.

### Artificial Grass Installation Preparation

- Call your local utility department to survey the installation area.
- If an irrigation system exists, contact an irrigation company to have it capped off.
- Use your sample piece of grass to practice the seaming process.
- Determine the amount of Class II base or Decomposed Granite you will need – a good rule of thumb is:
  - 1 Ton will cover approximately 66 Sq Ft, 3" deep

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- 1 Yard will cover approximately 94 Sq Ft, 3" deep
  
- Obtain necessary supplies to include:
  - Seaming Tape/Seaming Iron
  - Sod Staples (flat head)
  - 5" Steel Nails
  - 1.75"x1.75" Framing Board
  - 12" Plastic Stakes
  - Filter Fabric/Weed Barrier
  - Infill material
  
- Obtain necessary tools to include:
  - Shovel
  - Trowel
  - Plate Compactor
  - Hand Tamper
  - Power Broom
  - Sod Cutter

### Artificial Grass Installation: Base Preparation and Installation

- Frame your perimeter using 1.75" x1.75" plastic/bendable framing board. Attach the framing board to 12" plastic stakes every 3'.
  
- Roll your artificial grass out on a clean, flat surface. Allow your artificial grass to lay in direct sunlight for 2 hours prior to installation.
  
- Gather all necessary tools and place the adhesive container in direct sunlight.
  
- Prepare the Base
  - Remove 3.5" of soil in the installation area. A sod cutter can be used to remove existing grass. Sod cutters are available at most equipment rental stores. A square shovel can be used to remove additional soil from corners and edges. Make sure the base allows for proper drainage, a 1% grade should be sufficient. Once the soil has been removed install any edging that you plan to use.
  
  - Slightly dampen the bare earth and compact it with a plate tamper. If the bare earth is too wet or has a high clay concentration spread a thin layer of crushed stone over the

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- entire surface before compacting. Only a couple passes are necessary in most cases. Install a layer of weed barrier over the bare earth and trim as necessary, use sod staples to hold it in place.
- Begin distributing the crushed stone (class II base or decomposed granite) and spread it evenly throughout the installation area. Use the back of a bow rake in a back and forth motion to level off the crushed stone base. Use the sod roller to even out the surface. Ensure that the crushed stone base allows for proper drainage as mentioned above. The base material must be spread evenly across the entire installation area.
  - Slightly dampen the crushed stone and begin making passes with the plate tamper/compactor. Make as many passes as necessary to create a firm base. Do not make sharp turns with the plate tamper; this will create ridges in the base. High spots must be leveled off and low spots must be filled in and compacted. Use the hand tamp to compact any areas that were not compacted by the plate tamper. The smooth side of the trowel can be used to compact/ build up around the edges and corners. Your goal is to create a smooth and uniform base; the grass will not hide irregularities in the base. A base that has been thoroughly compacted will not show a footprint when walked on. Once base preparation/installation is complete avoid any unnecessary foot traffic. Walk flat-footed on the base when it is necessary. The final base should be 1 ½" below the top of the border.

### Artificial Grass Installation: Installing your Artificial Grass

- Installation can begin after the grass has been allowed to lay in direct sunlight for 2 hours. This will allow any wrinkles in the backing to settle. Use the power broom to brush the grass fibers against the direction they are laying prior to installation. This will make the installation of infill much easier. If you are seaming sections of grass together do not brush the fibers until you have removed the edges.
- Proper seaming is crucial to creating a realistic appearance. Practice the seaming process prior to installation. Before seaming make sure the grass fibers are laying in the same direction. Flip the grass over with the fibers down and use a straight edge and a carpet knife to cut between the stitching rows on the edge of the backside. A chalk line can be used to ensure you cut a straight line throughout the entire length of the grass. Cut in the middle of the stitching rows on the edge of both sides of the grass that will be seamed together. Flip the grass back over and dry fit the seams together and trim as necessary. Again, proper seaming is crucial to creating a realistic appearance. Once all the seams have been dry fit together roll up each section, and ensure that the rolls stay in proper sequence. Contact a carpet installer if you are not comfortable with this process.

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- Roll the grass onto the base; do not drag the grass onto the base. Cut 12” strips of weed barrier to be used as seaming material. You may also use 3” or 6” seaming tape. Fold over the two sides of grass that will be seamed together and place the seaming material in the middle. Secure the seaming material with sod staples at the end of each strip. Dry fit the seams over the seaming material. Ensure that each section of grass covers 6” of the seaming material. Place sand bags near the seams to ensure they do not shift before you glue them down. Use a pair of snips to trim the grass at the end of each seam to fit against the border. This will allow the grass to lay flat on the seaming material. Make final adjustments and fold over the two sides of grass that will be seamed together. Verify that the grass overlaps all the borders. Apply the adhesive to the seaming material (or use a seaming iron if you have purchased seaming tape) and spread it evenly across the seaming material using a trowel. Allow the adhesive to become tacky; this usually takes about 15 minutes. Carefully fold over one section of the grass onto the seaming material. Next, carefully fold over the remaining section of grass. As you fold over each section of grass apply pressure to ensure that each piece adheres to the seaming material. Do not allow the adhesive to get on the grass fibers; it can be very difficult to remove.
- Place heavy objects such as sand bags throughout the grass to ensure it does not shift. Begin trimming the grass to fit against the border. Take your time when trimming the grass; it should fit tightly against the border. Once the perimeter has been trimmed to fit against the border, you can begin to secure the grass to the base. Insert sod staples every 1’ along the perimeter of the grass, 1/2” away from the border. Spread the grass fibers apart when inserting the sod staples, do not staple down any grass fibers. Insert sod staples every square yard throughout the rest of the grass. Do not stretch the grass when inserting the sod staples. Also, do not drive the staples down too far; this will create indentations in the grass. Do not infill the grass until the adhesive has been allowed 24 hours to dry.

### Artificial Grass Installation: Infill

- Evenly distribute the infill material over the grass. Infill can be distributed using a drop spreader or broadcast with a shovel. Begin brushing the infill material into the grass against the direction the fibers are laying causing them to stand upright. This process will be repeated several times until the grass has been filled to approximately 1/2” below the top of your grass fibers. Infilling the grass in layers will make the process much easier. A power broom will be used to evenly distribute the infill material. A street broom can be used for corners and small areas. After you have leveled the infill material, slightly water the grass to settle any infill particles that may remain on the surface.

### Artificial Grass Installation: Post Installation Care

- Periodically, brush your artificial grass using a push broom. This will help stabilize the fibers, and

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keep the grass clean. Any spills that occur can be cleaned using a mild detergent and water. A plastic leaf rake or leaf blower can be used to remove any debris or foliage.