

Artificial Grass Maintenance Guide

Quick Guide

To ensure your artificial grass is kept looking its best and maximise its life, regular maintenance is required.

The key operation is regular brushing with a stiff broom or plastic lawn rake to stand up the pile and remove leaves and debris etc. The frequency of this required will depend on the use and site requirements. For best results and ease we do recommend our electric power brushes.

Soil, dirt or debris should be removed as soon as possible. Wash off to remove dust using a standard hose do not jet or pressure as this will remove the infill (if present).

We recommend that occasionally the kiln dried sand infill is topped up as required, typically every 5-10 years. If the lawn does contain sand infill, do not pressure wash unless you intend to re-sand afterwards.

Hot items such as barbecues should not be placed directly onto the surface, or damage may occur. Do not stub out cigarettes on the surface. Also be careful using power tools and placing them onto the lawn surface. Always keep some offcuts of your lawn in case any damage does occur during your lawns lifespan.

Avoid placing or moving heavy objects on the surface, which may cause rutting of the underlying base.

Snow should be left to melt or removed carefully with a plastic shovel when still soft, rock salt or grit should not be used. Chemical de-icers suitable for artificial grass can be used if needed

In damp areas, it may be necessary to treat the surface with a liquid algaecide or moss killer once per year. We recommend any proprietary brand suitable for hard surfaces but it must not contain Iron.

For pet lawns, occasionally hosing is recommended to ensure any urine and smells are making their way into the subbase. Enzyme based cleaners can be used to remove any built up odours and general maintenance. We recommend cleaners from Top Dog Turf.

For more detailed guidance please continue....



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Detailed Guide

INTRODUCTION

Maintenance is an important factor in the short and long term viability of artificial grass areas. Over the long term, a good maintenance regime greatly increases the longevity and effectiveness of the surface.

It is generally recognised that a major advantage of artificial grass is the greatly reduced maintenance required. However, reduced maintenance does not mean "no maintenance". It is very important to realise that sufficient maintenance needs to be performed to ensure the area is kept in top condition and maximise life.

This manual is aimed at assisting you to get the maximum value from your artificial grass surface. You will be able to extend the life of the surface and improve performance by following the simple rules within the quick guide on the previous page.

We expect that many of the commonly asked questions will be answered in this manual.

Should you require further information, contact our office as follows:

Artificial Lawn Company
Hartshill Nursery
Thong Lane
Shorne, Gravesend
Kent
DA12 4AD

Tel 01474 364320

Email: sales@artificiallawn.co.uk



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Clear Debris & Brush the pile

The key operation is regular brushing with a stiff broom or plastic lawn rake to stand up the pile and remove leaves and debris etc. The frequency of this required will depend on the use and site requirements. Pet lawns and lawn with higher traffic will require more brushing. The more upright you can keep the pile of the lawn, the longer it will last, much like an indoor carpet.

Remove any larger debris before getting started and then simply brush the lawn, working your way backwards and off the lawn. For best results and ease we do recommend our electric power brushes. These use powerful electric motors to lift the pile and also have handy collection buckets for the debris. We recommend pulling this backwards for optimal debris collection. Leaf blowers can also be used to clear debris and lift the pile.

When brushing it always best to go against the pile direction for best results. if you're unsure ask your installers or give us a call for advise on which direction is best to brush your lawn.



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Weed Growth

Although we do recommend a weed membrane with all installations, weeds can pop up around the perimeter of the lawn. And due to the increasingly dense make up of artificial grass it is not unusual to have the odd couple of weeds appear in the surface. These land on the top of grass and germinate into the pile and infill sand, they do not grow from the ground up.

These are easily prevented by giving the lawn a brush with a stiff natural bristle broom or rake it with a fine garden rake. This will help to remove any debris or seeds that have settled on the lawn. Should you get any weed growth which is not uncommon during spells of wet warm weather, you can treat the weeds with a weed killer purchased from a DIY store or garden centre or hand weed for best results. Mushrooms can also rarely appear and fungicide can be used.

Worm Casts

These are the tiny little soil mounds that appear at the side of the lawn. You may notice these after a period of wet weather. As they appear, the edge of the lawn can sometimes lift the edge slightly. You can simply scrape these away with your hand and the grass will then lay flat again. This is a natural process that there is no way of preventing without installing a concrete fillet around the perimeter.

Vacuuming.

Whilst it is very tempting to vacuum your new lawn much like you would your indoor carpet we do not recommend that you do this. The kiln dried sand that is brushed into the surface of the lawn to help weight it down and support the pile is removed if you vacuum your lawn. This will then mean the pile has little support and may flatten. If you were to use the lawn on a terrace or an indoor application when no sand is placed in the surface, you may vacuum the lawn without any detrimental effect.



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Pet Lawns

For Pet Lawns, the general maintenance is the same but with a few additions:

- Firstly it is best to remove faeces as quick as possible, as you would with a natural lawn. For “runny” mess, pick up the worst as you would normally and give any remaining mess a quick hose to clean it down into the subbase. You can use disinfectant if required to remove any remaining germs.
- Secondly, it is recommend to give the lawn a hose where your dog urinates in order to wash into the subbase. This is particularly important in the warmer months to reduce the risk of any smell build-up. it is also good practise to use an enzyme based cleaner which will break down any remaining uric acid crystals within the lawn. We recommend cleaners from Top Dog Turf which are effective and simple to use, however there are lots on the market available. Typically you dilute a concentrate into a watering can and then apply to lawn. Leave to work for a period of time and then rinse through. Please read the instructions for your chosen product carefully for best results.

It is possible to further clean any artificial lawn with a pressure washer although if the lawn contains infill sand this will need to re-applied as the jet washer will disrupt and remove the infill sand.



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Treatment of moss and algae

Algae growth is a natural occurrence and can affect all types of surface given the right conditions. Algae/Moss occurs more frequently in areas that are damp/ shaded / infrequently used or not cleaned regularly and thoroughly. Usually the first sign is that the synthetic grass surface turns brown or black, in patches, and becomes slippery to use.

Regular brushing is a good preventative measure, however spraying of the surface once or twice a year with an approved algae treatment, is recommended if the lawn becomes prone to moss or algae.

We recommend the use of Di-algae non-toxic surface treatment. Lawn sand or iron based or toxic moss treatments should never be used. We recommend this treatment from Top Dog Turf: [Algae Traz](#).

Approval from [ALC](#) should be sort for any other chemical being applied to your surface prior to use and if you're unsure; especially if your lawn is still within its warranty period.

Poor drainage is a major contributor to creating the ideal growing conditions for moss and algae. If present drainage pipe outlets should be checked regularly to ensure that are functioning and not blocked, water run-on from adjacent ground or roofs should be avoided, water points should be secure and turned off properly.

Avoid mud and dust from being deposited on the surface as this will block the drainage pores and holes and reduce the drainage abilities of the grass.



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Mirrors

It is recommended that you do not place mirrors or mirrored objects near artificial grass. This is the same for reflective film and some ornaments. The reflection caused by the sun on mirrored objects can cause burn patches on your new lawn. If you are placing mirrored objects in your garden please be mindful of where the reflection is cast and how the position of the sun will change throughout the seasons.

Smoking & Cigarettes

Smokers or smoking guests should refrain from smoking on your artificial grass to prevent hot ash or embers coming into contact with the artificial grass. If you do smoke on your artificial lawn, make sure to use an ashtray or cigarette-butt bin/receptacle to prevent damage to your lawn. We do offer some fire rated grass products which are more resistant to high temperatures like that of cigarettes.

BBQ's, Firepits & Power Tools

You should always avoid placing hot or flaming objects on their artificial lawn, including BBQs, grills, patio heaters and firepits, to prevent melting the grass. If you absolutely must, do use a protective board/layer underneath and be extremely careful!

Also be cautious using petrol power tools like blowers, chainsaws, hedge trimmers etc and placing them onto your artificial lawn. These can get warm when used and then damage your lawn if you place them down on top.



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Sand Infill

The vast majority of artificial grass suppliers still recommend a kiln dried silica sand infill for their products. All Artificial Lawn Supply products are recommended to be finished with a sand infill. The quantity does vary but typically 5-6kg per m² is sufficient. When adding infill sand or topping up, always complete in dry weather as otherwise it will go clumpy and make a big mess.

Rain, wind, use and maintenance regimes/equipment can affect sand infill levels. Try to maintain this level at the level it was at installation and refer to ALC regarding the type and size of infill to use. If you have the incorrect infill, your surface performance may suffer and faster wear and reduced drainage may result.



Washing and use of wet cleaners

Warm water, together with low sudsing, neutral household detergents will be effective for spot cleaning your surface. Any cleaning involving detergents or soaps should be followed with thorough rinsing. Disinfectants may be used if required. We do not recommend the use of pressure washers unless there is a need to remove all sand infill in the process.

Do not use cleaners containing chlorine bleaches or solvents.



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Stain Removal

The first rule is to act promptly as fresh spills are easier to remove than once dried and hardened. Remove any solids and soak up excess liquids with paper towels or a dry absorbent that can then be swept or vacuumed up.

The following cleaners can be applied without any special precautions:

- A warm mild solution of dilute household detergent in water OR any neutral low foaming detergent recommended for fabrics.
- 2. Stains removed with detergent solution include Coffee, Tea, Juice, Water Colour, Milk, Ketchup, Food Colouring, Butter, Beer and Soft Drinks.
- 3. A 3% solution of ammonia in water should be used for more severe problems. Thoroughly flush the surface with cold water immediately afterwards before use.
- Clean, dry absorbents such as paper towels or dry absorbent.
- Chewing gum is a common hazard and can be removed by freezing and then clipping from the pile. Aerosol packs or refrigerant can be sourced from carpet cleaning suppliers for this purpose, or dry ice could be used.
- To neutralise animal waste, use a mixture of white distilled vinegar with equal amounts of water or a proprietary pet disinfectant diluted at recommended rates. Flush thoroughly with water after application.

Oil Spillages & Petrol

If spills occur, wipe up promptly with a clean rag moistened with a suitable spot remover such as perchlorethylene or dry cleaning fluid. Do not use spirits or solvents such as petrol. Once this has been done, wash the area immediately with mild detergent followed by a generous rinse with water.

Refuelling of machinery should never be carried out on the surface.



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Load Limits

You will find alternative uses for your lawn and providing you take proper steps and precautions, almost any requirements can be met. This can include anything from tents & marquees to building works, large paddling and swimming pools.

That being said, as a general rule, ALC recommends that long term fixed loads are not applied. The load bearing ability of your surface is subject to the sub base design used and this should be consulted prior to allowing vehicles or heavy loads on the surface. In general please do not use vehicles on artificial grass, especially turning and braking can damage the grass.

It is a good idea to eliminate any unnecessary long-term loads and keep necessary loads as low and brief as possible. 20mm sheets of exterior plywood/boards can be used to spread major still loads to further minimise risk of damage to the turf system. Some new plywood contains materials that may leak out and stain the turf if it gets wet. A polythene or non woven geo-textile barrier can prevent staining. The surface being covered under the load should also be covered with a suitable polythene or geotextile to keep it clean.

Special Events

Most of the questions asked regarding surface usage are concerned with assemblies, shows and concerts or events. Concerns with surface loading and crowd management may arise here.

The first precaution is to keep long term fixed loads low by using plywood as mentioned earlier.

If you are placing chairs directly onto the surface, ensure the chair legs are protected with rubber tips and wooden legs should not be splintered or sharp. Narrow and thin chair legs can cause indentations, the wider to distribute the weight, the better for the lawn.



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Repairs to seems & tears

In the unlikely event that the surface is damaged it must be repaired as soon as possible. A loose seam of just a few centimetres can be a safety hazard and can quickly become worse unless action is taken.

These can be easily repaired on site with a suitable adhesive however larger areas should be reported to ALC for specialist repair. Other damage such as BBQ's, fireworks etc should also be repaired professionally. We always recommend keeping offcuts from your artificial lawn just in case any repairs are required throughout the lawns lifespan.

Removal of snow and ice

Artificial grass can be used when snow or ice is present but the surface will of course be more slippery and caution is advised!

In general it is better to let snow or ice melt naturally but if the surface has to be used it is best to remove it whilst still soft and wet and not fully frozen.

The use of plastic snow shovels or small rubber edged snow ploughs is recommended but care must be taken to prevent digging into the surface. A rotary power brush or snow blower can be used if the snow consistency is suitably powdery.

If a thin layer of ice is present this can be removed by rolling the surface with a light roller which can then be swept to remove the ice.

In the event of thick ice there is no alternative than to apply a de-icer to melt it. Do not use grit or rock salt as this will leave unsuitable and damaging deposits on the surface. Calcium chloride or ammonium nitrate based products are also not suitable.

Standard white salt can be used occasionally but we would recommend the use of a synthetic de-icer chemical which can be sourced via specialist groundsman supply companies.



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Still Something you're unsure of?

Get in touch with one of our experts today!

Artificial Lawn Company
Hartshill Nursery
Thong Lane
Shorne, Gravesend
Kent
DA12 4AD

Tel 01474 364320

Email: sales@artificiallawn.co.uk

The logo for Artificial Lawn Company features a stylized green grass blade icon to the left of the text. 'Artificial' is in black, 'Lawn' is in green, and 'Company' is in orange. A registered trademark symbol (®) is at the end.

Artificial Lawn Company[®]

The logo for Artificial Lawn Supply features a stylized green grass blade icon to the left of the text. 'Artificial' is in black and 'Lawn' is in green. Below this, the word 'SUPPLY' is written in orange, with each letter spaced out.

Artificial Lawn
S U P P L Y

