

Installation of STI Soft Lawn™

1. Layout of the Soft Lawn™ and Existing Ground Preparation

- Step 1: Determine the size and shape of your lawn keeping in mind that the turf widths are 12' or 15' depending upon the turf.
- Step 2: Measure the length and width you determined from Step 1 on the ground by using irrigation flags or stakes and landscape marking paint, outline the designed shape. Check for irrigation heads and be sure they are all capped off or relocated. Also check for leeching fields, wells and electrical.
- Step 3: Once the lawn is outlined you are ready to remove any existing sod. If your existing ground is not sod covered, skip to Step 4. Utilizing a sod cutter remove the sod from the staked green area. Set the depth of the sod cutter to between 2 and 3 inches.
- Step 4: You now have the lawn area laid out and have removed any sod from the area. Rough grade the area using a landscape rake, then using a water hose with a nozzle, lightly wet the area. Compact the area using either a 2 ton double drum roller or 19" plate compactor depending on the size of the lawn and equipment availability. Make 2 passes over the area to ensure sufficient compaction. Spray the area heavily with a strong weed killer.

2. Base Installation

- Step 1: Base installation will depend upon geographical location. If you are in an area without a freeze line you need to use a 2" compacted base and in a northern freeze line area you will need a 4" base. The base material is measured by the cubic yard and the following calculation is utilized to determine the quantity of material. (This is for a 5" base if you are using a 2" base divide the final number by half)
a) Calculation of 5" compacted base; Sq Ft of area x 34 / 2000 = Tonage
c) Round the final measurement up to calculate for any waste
Make sure the base compacts to 85% or better. Whether the material is delivered or you pick it up have it onsite when you are ready to begin the base installation.

- Step 2: Spread the base evenly with a landscape rake. With a hose and nozzle thoroughly wet the entire area but do not overly saturate it. Then begin compaction with the 2-ton double drum roller or 19" plate compactor. You should make even passes over the area and repeat 2 -4 times to ensure sufficient compaction. Make sure the base is prepared for natural drainage.
- Step 3: Keep in mind the base for Soft Lawntn is not as critical as the base of a putting green. You are only looking for a stable compacted base to install the turf over, not a perfect base that you can putt on. Make sure there is proper drainage for water runoff.
- If you are installing a school lawn you must make sure you go by the CPSC Standards for fall zones. (Online handbook www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/325.pdf)

3. Turf Installation

- The turf comes in 12' and 15' foot widths. Any lawn that is wider than those widths feet will have to be constructed of two or more pieces of turf seamed together.
- Step 1: Before installing your turf, unroll it and lay it out flat on top of the base to let it relax from being rolled up. To unroll the turf, place the roll or rolls on one side of the lawn and gently roll turf out over the base. Do not drag the turf across the surface of the base
- BE SURE THAT BOTH PIECES ARE LAYING IN THE SAME DIRECTION.
- If you do not have 2 pieces of turf to seam together move on to 6. Shaping.

4. Seaming

(Recommended tape: 6" Firestone Splice Tape available from STI)

- Step 1: Now that you have both pieces rolled out onto the base, you will need to overlap the two edges that will be seamed together. Make sure the overlap is at least 3 inches. Part of one piece will be on top of the other and they will be referred to as top piece and bottom piece for this procedure.
- Step 2: Take the top piece and flip it back over and you will see the stitches from the back side - go in about two inches from the side and cut directly between two stitches. Cut right next to the stitch on one piece – cut opposite of stitch on second piece and seam together. If stitches are not straight, cut one piece same - overlay second piece and cut (with back cutter) to match first piece.
- Step 3: After the top piece is cut put it back on top of the bottom piece. Mark the bottom piece between two stitches were the top piece lays.
- Step 4: Pull back the bottom piece and cut between those two stitches that were marked.

- Step 5: Now that both pieces of turf have been cut, lay them next to each other and make sure that the seam is tight with good pressure applied.
- Step 6: At either end of the seam continue in the direction of the seam off the end of the turf and draw a small line in the base. These lines will be used to set the seaming tape in the proper alignment after the turf edges are rolled back.
- Step 7: Roll out the seaming tape with the tar side exposed. There is no preparation to this tape other than letting it sit for a few minutes in the sun to warm up the tar. If there is no sun or it is cold the seam can still be secured. In sub 60 degree weather use a blow dryer or other instrument to warm up the tar tape. Be careful not to heat face yarn.
- Step 8: The turf is seamed by laying the two pieces together at the same time. Make sure there is ample pressure between the two pieces before it is laid and there are no extreme gaps. Once you lay the turf make sure you use the seaming roller across the seam on a 45 degree angle. To ensure the seam lays together you may also use landscape staples throughout the length of the seam.

5. Shaping and Fastening the Turf

- Step 1: Once the turf is seamed the next step is to make sure the turf is fitted to your area and fastened appropriately. You can cut the turf from the top side with a regular carpet knife to fit the turf to any area.
- Step 2: The best way to fasten the turf for a high traffic area is to take a straight area where you can bury a piece of 4" x 4" pressure treated wood and staple the turf to the wood. This keeps the turf stabilized without possible movement. In a curved area you bury the edges of the turf and back fill it with base
- Step 3: The turf should be stapled to the base approximately every two (2') along the perimeter of the lawn. (Using 8"- 12" landscape staples available at Home Depot) This is recommended with any application

6. Infilling the Turf

- The amount of infill will vary depending upon the turf, each product has a recommended infill of sand and rubber, listed below.
- Step 1: Going against the grain use either a drop spreader, hopper, or shovels and put down your first layer of rubber. You will use approximately a third of the rubber for the first layer.
- Step 2: Once the area is covered with the rubber (depending upon the size of the area) use a sit down or walk behind street sweeper, a Shindaiwa Powerbroom, or a stiff brisseled push broom to drive the infill into the fibers. **(for a local shindaiwa dealer go to: www.shindaiwa.org/data/zip.htm)**
- Step 3: Infill about half of the recommended sand the same way as you infilled the rubber. Make sure that it is even throughout the entire area.

Use the machine or broom to infill the turf the same way, going against the grain. You will do two (2) layers total. Fill ½ up with fine sand;— finish with rubber. Once you finish the layer of rubber your installation is complete. Always do the infill depth to the customers liking and the infill amount will determine how much of the fibers stick out.

Infill Requirements-Approximate

All SoftLawn Products

½- 1 pound rubber / 3 pounds sand (minimum)