

Preparing for your New Turf

When you have made the decision to put in a new lawn, it's important to take the necessary steps to ensure success.

Remove All Weeds and Existing Grass

It is absolutely essential to clear the area going under the new turf, especially if you are putting in a lawn that has hard to control grass weeds in it. If your old lawn is not removed properly or the grass weed runners are still present in the soil, you can bet they will be there infesting your new lawn before you know it.

Using a herbicide containing glyphosate with repeat applications over a few weeks gives best results. Over those few weeks before laying the turf, water the area to encourage the grass weeds to grow and still remove all dead weed and plant matter.

Prepare the Soil

Next, it is a good idea to assess the nutritional requirements of the soil. You are about to put a living turf surface over this soil so it's better to get the soil with the right nutritional balance for your lawn BEFORE the top goes on.

Completing a turf specific soil test will help you to understand what the soil needs to support your new lawn.

If your soil is heavily compacted, you should consider loosening it up via aeration or loosening of the top 50 – 100mm by mechanical means. This is where some will choose to use under-turf topsoil, but you can probably get a better result and far less cost by working with the soil you have got. In fact, regardless of whether you are bringing in topsoil, getting the existing soil into balance is best in the long run. Remember, once the top is on, it is much harder to change that soil profile!

During this time, you can be evaluating the levelness of the area to be turfed and regrading if necessary. Remember, grade away from your house if possible. All this disturbance will get those weeds germinating too, meaning a good result when you spray them out before the new lawn goes down.

At this point, with the soil ready to grow a good lawn and the area level and weed free, you can now move on to the new Turf Starter Guide from the LawnPride Guide series.

