



Artificial Grass Installation Guide



Trade and DIY

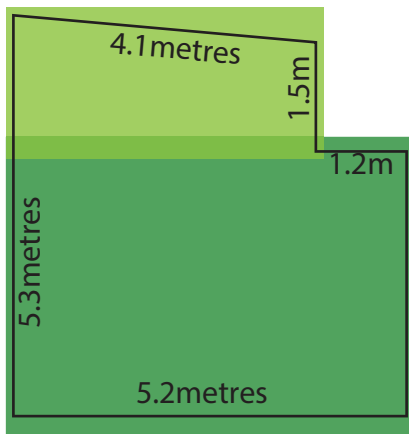
This publication is a recommended guide for the installation of synthetic turf. Correct installation of artificial grass is not limited to the information in this guide. There may be some variations in the process between trades people within the industry.

CALCULATE YOUR AREA

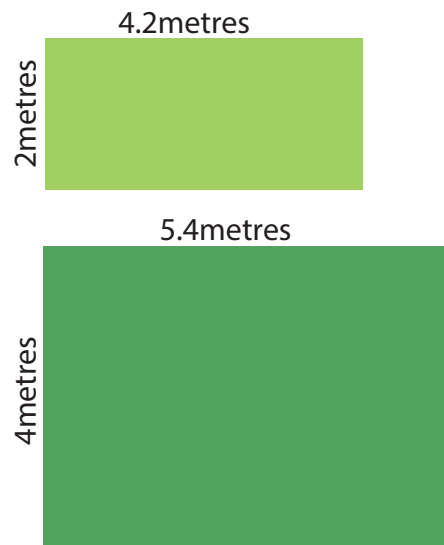
Sketch your area and note all perimeter measurements. Determine how many square metres your area is- this will tell you how many cubic metres of cracker dust you may need, roughly how much sand will need to be removed, and how much infill sand to apply after the artificial grass is installed.

Determine what lengths of artificial grass you will need to cover your area, squaring off sections that are not at a right angle. Keep pieces running in the same direction and find out the available roll widths for your choice of artificial grass. Factor in additional width and length to allow for cutting in your artificial grass to fit your area.

Direction of blades →

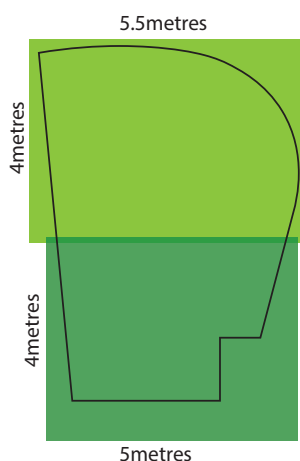


BACK OF HOUSE

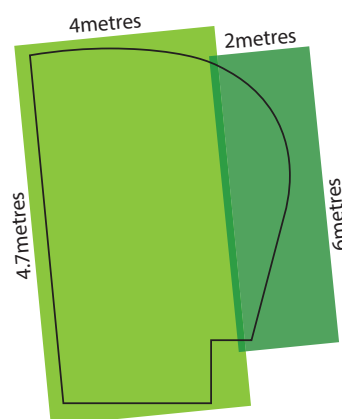


Example 1

Option A



Option B



Example 2

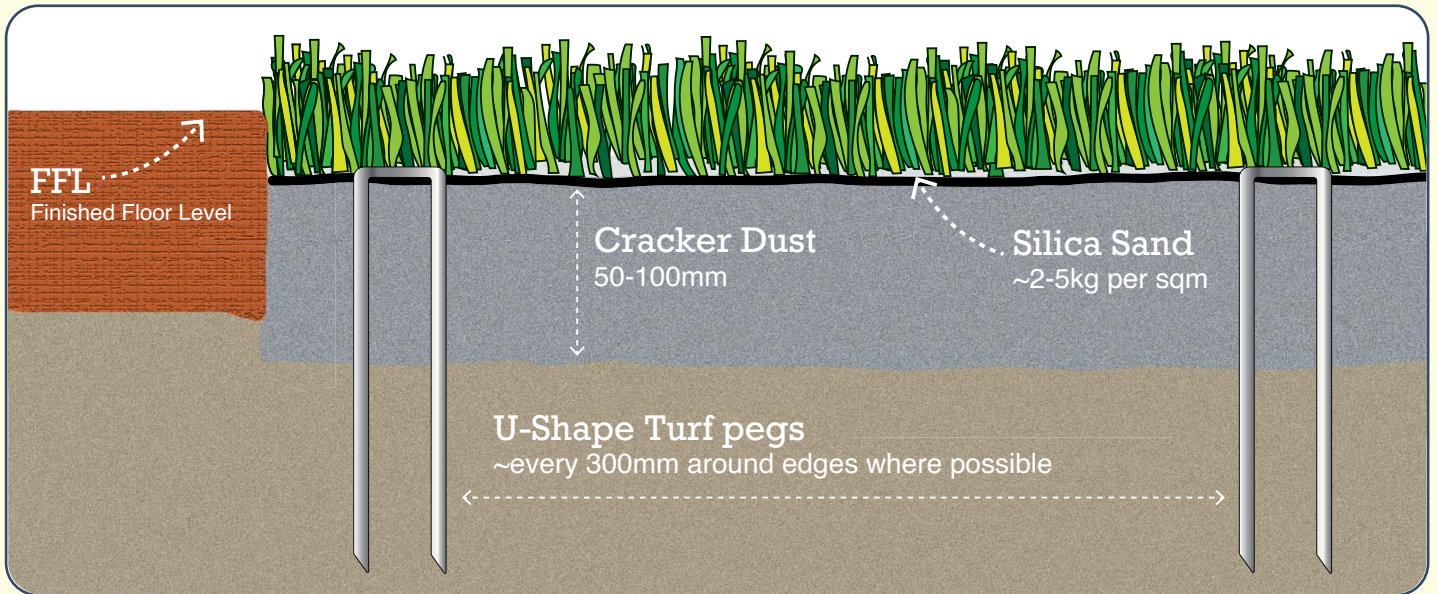
Tip: Artificial grass is directional, meaning that the way it is manufactured (the grass yarn is stitched into the backing) requires any joining lengths of artificial grass to be laid running in the same direction to look uniform and blend together. The ideal viewing angle for artificial grass is looking into the blades, rather than across the back of the blades.

PREPARE YOUR AREA

1 Excavation

Dig out your area by hand or by machine to allow for 50-100mm of cracker dust substrate, as well as the height of your artificial grass.

Tip: Where the artificial grass will meet your outdoor finished floor level (FFL) such as a driveway or paved area, you can choose to install your artificial grass with the blades protruding approximately 5-10mm above the FFL or bolster the edges with a chisel and hammer.



Based on a reasonably flat area, you can use your square meterage to determine how many cubic metres of sand will need to be removed, and therefore what skip bin size you may need (if using one). However, often landscape levels are undulating, and it can be difficult to calculate the quantity of sand that will come out. Even a small variation in levels can equate to a sizeable difference.

Around the perimeter, aim to excavate to the depth of the cracker dust you will place plus the height of your artificial grass, subtracting how far the artificial grass will protrude above your FFL. For example, if installing 70mm of cracker dust and installing artificial grass with a 35mm pile height that will protrude 10mm above FFL, excavate 70mm + 35mm – 10mm, approximately 95mm below FFL around the perimeter.





2 Define your levels

Level the soil prior to the addition of cracker dust.

Use a soil leveler or the flat back of a rake to contour the sand to your required height.

You can choose to wet and compact the soil if it is very loose.

Add borders around your area where needed. You will use your borders to contain your cracker dust and to cut in your artificial grass. Consider adding a straight edge to edges that will otherwise be difficult to cut your artificial grass to fit, such as wave shaped Hardie fencing and around trees.



3 Cracker Dust

Also known as crusher dust or blue metal dust, cracker dust can be purchased from select landscape yards around Perth.

Pile cracker dust into the prepared area.

Cracker dust can be applied to a depth of 50-100mm to create a solid but permeable base.

Tip: *Through the middle of your area, it is recommended to create a gentle hump for a more natural look, known as crowning the area. Therefore, you can excavate to an average level and move sand from the perimeter into the middle.*



4 Distribute Cracker Dust

Distribute the cracker dust to an even depth over your area.



5 Compact substrate

Wet the cracker dust thoroughly and compact with a plate compactor, filling any low points after the first compaction and compact again.



Tip: After the first compaction, use a notched piece of timber to screed around any edges that are at FFL to ensure your artificial grass will sit evenly.



LAYING YOUR GRASS



6 Cutting in



Your piece of turf should be cut to pieces a little longer and wider than the area it needs to cover. Lay the pieces on the cracker dust in place, making sure to leave overlap at any two joining pieces, and that the stitches of your turf are all running in the same direction.

Where two pieces of turf join, flip the edges over to reveal the backing. Trim one piece of turf close to a line of stitching, and trim the other piece of turf away from a line of stitching. Move the two pieces of turf into place so that the spacing is the same as the spacing between the stitches, and the join is not noticeable when you brush the blades up with your hand along the join.

Use a sharp Stanley knife to cut through the top of the turf around the perimeter of your area like you would carpet, pushing the turf into the edges and using the knife to find the border underneath.



7 Joining

After marking the centre of the join at either end, for example by scoring the cracker dust, flip over the edges of your turf at any joins to reveal the backing. Secure a length of joining tape from one centre to the other with a turf peg at either end and along the length where necessary before removing the backing to expose the glue. Starting from one end, fold the edges of the turf back over and on to the joining tape, being careful to keep the blades of the turf away from the glue.

Walk along the join to apply weight.

Place U-shape turf pegs along joins, with one prong on each side of the join.



8 Peg the edges

Hammer turf pegs around the perimeter at roughly 300mm intervals as close to the edge as possible, making sure to not trap the turf blades under the head of the peg as you hammer them in.

Turf pegs can only be installed into cracker dust, and can't be hammered in where there is concrete haunching, such as around the edges of paving. Turf pegs can't be installed into road base as the stone aggregate is too big.

Install turf pegs along joins, with one prong on either side of the join.



9 Brushing up

Use a stiff bristled garden broom or a petrol power broom to brush up the synthetic turf blades.

During warmer weather, rolled out artificial grass will begin to stand up without brushing.



10 Add infill

Distribute silica infill sand evenly over the brushed up turf, using approximately 2-5kg of sand every square metre, making sure to cover joins and edges.

To distribute the infill sand using the bag it comes in, make a row of slits at the bottom of the bag, and holding the bag from the top, keep the bag moving and apply over the entire area.





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