

Perfect Turf

PerfectPutt Installation Guide

Best installation tip: when you have a question, call us, we're happy to help!
888.SYN.TURF, available 7 days a week from 7:00am to 11:00pm CST

Recommended Tools, Materials & Equipment

The following is a list of tools used for a typical installation. Most can be purchased at a home improvement store or online. Equipment can often be rented locally. Contact us with any questions.

Tools & Equipment

- Flat edge shovels
- Wheel Barrow
- Sod Cutter
- Plate Compactor (rent)
- Drum Roller (rent or purchase – we recommend purchasing at Home Depot for \$100 since you will want to use it periodically to smooth or speed up your green)
- Flat-head landscaping rake
- Stiff bristle broom
- Leaf Blower
- Power Broom (rent, if available)
- Carpet staples or landscape staples
- Carpet knife and scissors
- V-Notched Adhesive Trowel

Materials

- Seaming tape
- Marking Paint
- Wood Stakes or Flags
- Weed barrier material
- Premium outdoor glue (see inset photo)
- Silica sand (or other infill material such as coal slag, Copper slag, green quartz, or rubber-coated sand.)



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Layout of Green and Existing Ground Preparation

Step 1: Determine the size and shape of your green as well as any chipping stations and/or sand traps.

Step 2: Measure the length and width you determined from Step 1 on the ground and 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.

Step 3: Once the green is outlined you are ready to remove any existing sod. If your existing ground is not sod covered, skip to Step 4. Using a sod cutter, remove the sod from the staked green area plus an additional 1' to 1' 6" around the perimeter. Set the depth of the sod cutter to between 2 and 3 inches.

Step 4: You now have the green area laid out and have removed any sod from the area plus at least an additional 1' outside. Rough grade the area using a landscape rake. Then, using a water hose and nozzle, lightly wet the area and then compact using either a 2-ton double drum roller or 19" plate compactor depending on the size of the green and equipment availability. Make at least two passes over the area to ensure sufficient compaction.

Base Installation

Step 1: Remove the irrigation flags used in the layout of the green as you will be utilizing them again in this procedure.

Step 2: Base installation will involve two different types of base material. The first layer of base will be between 3 and 5 inch thick crushed stone or "road base" which consists of 3/4" stones with screenings. The second layer should not exceed 3 inches thick and will consist of 1/4" to fine screenings or other fine material, depending on what is available in your area. The base material is measured by the cubic yard and the following calculation is utilized to determine the quantity of material.

- a) Area of green in square feet x depth of layer in feet (inch measurement ÷ 12) = cubic feet of material
- b) Cubic feet ÷ 27 = Cubic yards of material
- c) Round the final measurement up to calculate for any waste

Whether the material is delivered or you pick it up have it onsite when you are ready to begin the base installation.

Step 3: As you install the first layer of base you will incorporate the green undulations into this installation by adding thicker layers of base in certain areas to create breaks. To aid in this, install irrigation flags or stakes on each side of the green down the entire length. The flag/stake spacing should be about 5 feet apart and across the green from each other. You will also need a laser or site level and tripod set up at one end of the green or an 8-10 foot long 2x4 with a level

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attached. A normal break is about a 2 to 3 inch fall between sections of the green and a more challenging break would be a 4 inch fall.

Step 4: Using a shovel and rake, place base material evenly over the green area. As you install the first layer of aggregate material, build up the green higher in areas per your design by adding more material. Periodically check the elevations with your level until you have achieved the desired amount of fall in each portion of the green.

Step 5: When you have finished grading the first layer of base and are satisfied with the undulations you should have around 4" of material installed. You are now ready to compact this layer. Using the water hose and nozzle thoroughly wet the entire area but do not over-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 several times to ensure sufficient compaction.

Step 6: After compacting the first layer recheck your undulations with the level and then rough the entire area with a landscape rake. Make sure the green is pitched so that water will not pool up in the middle.

Step 7: Begin installing the screenings/fine material. Remember to maintain the contours you created with the first layer and evenly install the second layer at a uniform thickness. You should only need about 2 inches of material with a maximum of 3 inches.

Step 8: Using the back of the landscape rake gently smooth the surface of the base and wet thoroughly but not overly saturated. Compact with either the 2 ton double drum roller or 19" plate compactor with even passes over the base. Compact the entire area until you no longer leave a footprint in it.

Hole Installation

Step 1: Roll a small basketball or rubber ball on the green to determine the effects of the undulations you have installed. This will help in determining where to install the cups depending on the desired breaks you wish to create. Experiment by placing the cups on the base and rolling the ball to each location until you have the desired locations

Step 2: Using post-hole diggers, dig out the holes for the cups in the previously determined locations. Dig far enough down to ensure the cup will be 1/4" higher than the surface of the base when installed. This is important because it will help you find the holes once the turf is laid on top of the base.

Step 3: Wrap the entire cup twice with wax paper or Mylar seam tape and then tape the bottom of the cup with duct tape. If you live in a wet or cold climate you may want to dig a deeper hole and fill it with gravel to improve drainage. You can add a small length of 4" PVC landscape drain tube with a coupler and wrap with Mylar tape to make a sleeve to set the cup in.

Step 4: Place the cup in the center of the hole you dug and place Kwik-Crete cement evenly around the cup all the way up to the surface of the base. Pour water over the cement until it soaks in. If you live in a freeze/thaw climate you may not want to use cement and can use the extended sleeve set in the crushed stone base. Place the pin for the hole or a 30" pole marker in the cup to

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keep it level and eye the cup from all angles to ensure it is straight. A small level can be set on the cup to check for level.

Step 5: Using a hard bristled push broom, broom the entire surface of the base to ensure that there are no foot marks or dimples present. As a final effort to make a smooth surface you can sift the fines from the screenings with a wire strainer. The fines can then be sifted over the entire surface and rolled with the water drum roller. A trowel should be used around the cups to insure a perfectly smooth surface.

Turf Installation

Note: The turf comes in 15 foot widths. Any green that is wider than 15 feet in both directions will have to be constructed of two or more pieces of turf seamed together. Keeping the grain of the green and fringe going the same direction is preferred for fringe turf and required for putting green turf. If you must make the fringe grain go in different directions, do not exceed a 45 degree angle in the corners for the smoothest transition possible.

Lay Out Turf

Step 1: Before installing your turf, unroll it and lay it out in the sun to let it relax from being rolled up. To unroll the turf on the base, place the roll or rolls on one side of the green and gently roll turf over the base. Do not drag the turf across the surface of the base. If possible you should leave it flat overnight at a minimum.

Note: If you do not have 2 pieces of turf to seam together move on to Final Shaping

Seaming Instructions

When placing two pieces of putting green turf together or fringe turf to putting green turf, you will need a “seam”. The process of seaming is fairly easy if you remember a few simple rules. Seam tape isn’t tape, it is 12” wide Mylar material that you spread adhesive on the fuzzy side to make it into tape.

Step 1: Prior to seaming, remove the excess backing material on the sides of the turf with a razor knife, being careful not to cut into the fibers of the turf.

Step 2: Place your turf so that both pieces meet in the middle. Leave a gap of approximately 1/8 inch between the two pieces. Overlapping the turf will be a problem on a putting green, a small gap is OK, overlapping or even touching is not. Try to maintain a consistent gauge between stitch rows.

Step 3: Fold back the turf from the seam and set blocks to hold it in place. Roll out the Mylar seam tape and spread adhesive the full width of the seam tape using a 1/8” V-notch trowel. See

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page 1 for a picture of the polyurethane adhesive we recommend (available at Home Depot). If you cut the seam tape in sections do not overlap it under the turf. It is best to apply the adhesive to the tape on a piece of plywood and then place the tape in the seam area.

Step 4: Once the tape is glued and set in place for the entire length of the seam remove the blocks and begin to bring the two sides of the turf together. Make certain to bring the turf pieces together at the same time and not to get adhesive on the turf blades.

Step 5: Walk over the seams several times to insure good contact with the adhesive. After seaming, let it dry for 24 hours. If the seam is being “pulled” by a contour in the base, be sure to lay bricks or sand bags on the seam to keep it together while drying. Landscape staples can be used to hold the turf in place. Roll the seams with a carpet roller if available.

Final Shaping

Step 1: With the turf laid out on the base draw a chalk line in the outline of the final desired shape of your green. Children’s sidewalk chalk works great for this application.

Step 2: With a carpet cutter carefully cut out the turf along the chalk line. Be sure to have replacement blades available for the cutter or knife that you are using. Measure twice, cut once.

Step 3: Lay out the fringe at this time, if fringe is not being used move on to top dressing. Fringe can be installed with seam tape or landscape staples can be used to hold the fringe and green together.

Top Dressing

Step 1: Top dressing material is silica sand sold in 50 pound bags. It should be spread evenly on the turf with a lawn spreader at a rate of 2-5 pounds per square foot depending on the height of your turf. Keep the sand dry and use a drop spreader to spread it evenly over the turf. If the sand is wet, a broadcast spreader will typically work.

Step 2: Use a blower or hard bristle push broom to distribute the top dressing evenly over the turf. To move areas of heavy sand to areas without enough sand, use the blower and broom at the same time with one person blowing the sand in the desired direction as a second person pushes the broom.

Step 3: Roll the turf using a water-filled roller. Make several passes over the green in both directions. The hotter it is, the more sun that hits the turf, the easier it will be to get the fibers to bend under the weight of the roller.

Cutting Cup Holes

Step 1: Locate the holes underneath the turf and then find the center of the cup using your thumb.

Cut a small X in the center using a sharp utility knife.

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Step 2: Insert the knife into the X and carefully cut until you reach the edge of the cup. Gently hold the turf up at the X and cut tightly around the outside edge of the cup.

Step 3: Once the turf is removed over the cup, carefully remove the cup from the hole. You may need to use the handle end of a pair of pliers and a screwdriver to pry the cup loose before pulling it out if it does not come out on its own.

Step 4: Have a 5 gallon bucket nearby for garbage and remove the wax paper from the cups and discard the paper. Make sure the bottom of the hole does not have any concrete in it. Using a small amount of dirt from the bottom of the hole, rub it on the inside walls of the concreted hole.

Step 5: Reinstall the cup in the hole, ensuring the top of the cup is about 1/4" below the top of the turf. You may need to gently tap the cup into place with the handle of a hammer. Repeat for all of the cups.

If you use the PVC drain sleeve you can use some silicone to hold the cups in place.

PolyPutt greens will have a break in period of about 2-6 weeks depending on the amount of sun and the weight of the roller used.

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