



## TIPS TO CARE FOR YOUR NEW SOD

The project is almost complete! We thank you for your patience during the construction process. One of the last steps is the restoration of your lawn. Schumacher Excavating is scheduled to place new sod in the project disturbed areas over the next few days.

Schumacher Excavating will be maintaining the new sod for 30 calendar days following placement. After the 30-calendar day maintenance period expires, the sod will be re-assessed and repaired if required. After the 30-day maintenance period, care for the new sod is the homeowner's responsibility.

To give the sod it's best opportunity to thrive, here are a few tips:

### **Watering**

Schumacher Excavating will be watering during the maintenance period. They typically will perform heavy, infrequent watering to help drive the root system deeper. During the contract maintenance period additional watering can be performed by you, given the guidelines below. After the maintenance period, watering and maintenance of the sod is the homeowner's responsibility. Your help will greatly increase the success of the newly placed sod.

A rule of thumb for watering a mature lawn is a minimum of 1 inch per week. New sod requires twice as much water or 2 inches per week done in three or four applications. Any rainfall received during the week, can be included in the 2 inch a week watering total. An easy check is to stick a screwdriver into the soil, and if the soil sticks to the screwdriver three to four inches down you are doing a good job. Never let your lawn go dormant or brown for the two years. However, if your lawn turns a bright yellow, back off on the watering for a short time as your lawn maybe getting too much water.

Double check if you are watering enough by placing a shallow, flat-bottomed container under the sprinkler. Then just measure the water depth in the container. You should expect to continue watering the new sod for the remainder of the summer and fall.

### **Mowing**

Try to stay off your new sod for the first week or two and should not be mowed for the first few weeks. Only begin mowing when you cannot lift the sod up off the ground. Don't pull hard enough to rip the roots, but gently tug. Prior to mowing, set the mower deck at the highest setting and cut the new sod with this setting for the remainder of the year. It is also advisable to let the sod grow a little longer than normal when conditions are dry.

### **Fertilizing**

Your new sod was fertilized before shipment; therefore, it will not need fertilizer until the fall or next spring. With environmental concerns, watch the color of the sod. Next spring, when it starts to fade, sprinkle a light coating of fertilizer (every 4-6 weeks). When you do fertilize, use a 10-10-10, 12-12-12 or similar mixture and follow manufacturer's instructions on application rates. If unsure of the amount needed you may want to do an annual soil test. Disturbed soils (construction activities) for the first five years tend to need more fertilizer. Without fertilizer the grass may become thin and weak, allowing for the growth of weeds.

### **Future Maintenance**

Remember, even after your new sod appears to have taken hold, it is not as sturdy as an established lawn. It takes an entire year for the roots to reach their full length. Until the roots are mature, the sod is still vulnerable in dry conditions. Remember to deeply water. It is also advisable to let the sod grow a little longer than normal when conditions are dry. Fertilize as described above if the sod begins to lose its dark green color.