



## **Artificial Grass Frequently asked questions and installation guide**

**Helpline 0800 085 0005**

**[www.birstall.com](http://www.birstall.com)**

### **General**

#### **Do you send samples of artificial grass?**

We provide samples of our artificial grass in the post.

#### **How long will it last?**

The majority of products we offer will last 10-15 years depending on specification, installation, climate and usage.

#### **Does water drain through?**

Yes 100% provided that the base is free draining. Products have perforation holes that conform to the minimum requirements for sports pitches.

#### **How much maintenance does it involve?**

Minimal. Keep clear of leaves, seeds and dirt by sweeping with a stiff brush regularly. For further information contact Verde.

#### **Does the grass have a directional pile?**

All tufted and needle-punched products are slightly directional as are all textile products. Please take this into consideration when placing your order.

#### **Can I use a barbeque on top of artificial grass?**

Yes. The carpet will not ignite although it may mark. Sand filled products, such as Verdeturf are strongly recommended as their sand infill is an immediate stopper of a flame.

#### **Will the artificial grass fade?**

All products are fully UV stabilised and are guaranteed for a minimum of 5 years in the UK but will remain unchanged for between 10-15 years.

#### **Will weeds grow on the artificial grass?**

Weeds will not grow through the grass but seeds may settle in the pile if the Artificial Grass is not maintained/brushed.

#### **With a lot of use will the grass matt or flatten?**

No. Not for many years as long as installation instructions, maintenance guidance and correct usage are applied.

**What is it like to walk on?**

All Verde artificial grasses vary in their feel, characteristics and appearance. Most provide a very natural texture that is similar to natural grass.

**Will anything stain the grass?**

No, within reason. Verde Artificial Grasses are either polypropylene or polyethylene, which are forms of plastic. Stubborn marks will not therefore filtrate into the fibre but can be wiped clean with the use of hot water and household detergent (washing up liquid). We do not recommend any contact with bleach.

**How long will it last?**

The products life varies on the type and quality of each product as well as the country in which it is installed. The average Verde product in the UK will last around 10-15 years if installed to our recommendation – many have lasted way in excess of this period.

**Can you park a car or vehicle on artificial turf?**

Yes. If installed over a solid sub base certain products are ideal for this application. Super Verdegass and Verdeturf are the most suitable, although petrol and diesel spillages may weaken/damage such surfaces.

**How realistic is it?**

Very. Products such as Verdeluxe and Super Verdeluxe are extremely realistic, so much so that many people commonly mistake them for real grass.

**What is the guarantee?**

See each product specification as this varies on the country of installation. Most products have a guarantee based on their UV stability which is 5-7 years in the UK. However, you will certainly get a life in excess of this period, as we have found out over our 21 years in business.

**Do you supply sports grass?**

Yes. We rarely get involved in the installation of full sized sports pitches as the main content of the contract is engineering based. However, we regularly supply surfaces for tennis, multi-purpose practice pitches, golf and cricket facilities. If we don't install, we will put you in touch with one of our accredited sports contractors.

**Would you recommend the use of artificial grass indoors?**

Yes. Verde offer a wide range of permanent and portable indoor products.

**Can weeds penetrate the grass?**

No. Not unless they are extremely stubborn. The sun cannot see through the surface so this discourages growth. In order to totally prevent weeds, we recommend the use of a special Terram which is available from Verde at a very low cost.

**What maintenance is involved?**

This varies on product, installation and application. Full details are available from Verde if required.

**Installing****Is it hard to install?**

No. Not usually. The difficult part in ensuring that your base construction is compact, solid, level and free draining. Once installed the installation will be there for years, so you don't want your base to fail. Self-installation instructions are available with all orders.

**Can I install artificial grass on top of my existing lawn?**

Yes, if it is flat and free draining. However, we strongly recommend that you remove at least your existing turf before fitting the artificial grass. This will provide a much more even and long lasting installation.

**Why is sand infill used?**

Kiln-dried silica sand is used mainly to hold the artificial grass in place, whilst ensuring that no hindrance to drainage occurs. The sand also protects the tufts, especially on open pile grasses and often assists in the natural appearance of the finished products.

**What is rubber infill?**

Rubber infill is used to provide additional cushioning and safety protection. When applied for a golf application, it is there to grip the tee-peg, allow the club to drive through the surface and provide natural playing characteristics and appearance.

**Are infill surfaces better than non-infill surfaces?**

This depends on the product, installation and more importantly, the application. If a sand infill is recommended then it is there for a reason. If unsure, please contact Verde for more information.

**Which grasses do you infill?**

Verdeturf, Super Verdeturf, Verdeluxe (optional) and Super Verdeluxe.

**What grasses do you not need infill for?**

Verdegrass, Super Verdegrass, and VerdePlay. For Verdeluxe and Super Verdeturf sand is optional.

**If I have a sand infill fake grass will it get in my shoes and in the house?**

Not if installed correctly. Products such as Super Verdeturf and Verdeluxe are sand-dressed products. Due to their knit-de-knit construction the sand is not visible to the eye once installed. Sand will initially be visible with Verdeturf, but this will reduce as the pile fibrillates and hides the sand. Verdeturf is

extremely hardwearing and the sand is imperative for the some of its applications.

### **What can we use for edging?**

There are a variety of products which can be used for edging, depending on your required finished appearance. Timber surrounds, flags, soil, stone and specialist plastic and metal edging strips are all ideal. See our [installation guide](#) for more information.

### **What holds down the artificial grass?**

In most instances, the sand infill holds the grass in place. In non-sand filled products the grass needs to be either adhered to a solid sub-base or fixed to a perimeter surround (such as a timber edging) if over an unbound area.

### **How easy is it to cut and shape artificial grass?**

Always cut the 'back side' of the grass with a sharp knife and straight edge, where possible cut between the picks to minimise fraying. Cutting and shaping is relatively simple to some people but an 'art' for others. If unsure, please employ one of our [accredited installers](#).

### **How do I join the artificial grass together?**

With the use of our specialised jointing tape and all-weather adhesive. Please see [installation guide](#) for further details.

### **How will I cope with the part of the garden which is always wet?**

This area will remain wet unless adequate drainage is provided. Please ensure that this is catered for prior to the installation of Verde Artificial Grass.

### **How is grass fixed to hard floors?**

Either loose laid or spot adhered with the use of our all-weather adhesive. Fully bonding to a solid sub-base is ideal as long as there is a corner to allow the water to run off freely. All-weather adhesive will prevent any water draining through the artificial grass.

### **Can artificial grass be installed on wooden decking?**

Yes. This is a very common requirement, especially when decking is starting to fail, rot or show signs of deterioration. Fixing with the use of small tacking pins is strongly recommended as the pinheads will hide in the pile. Spot adhesive is also a popular option.

### **Can fake grass be applied to a roof?**

Yes. Fixing is strongly recommended to prevent the surface lifting in the wind and to ensure safety. Certain adhesives are better than others, especially with asphalt roofs. Contact Verde for fill recommendations.

### **Can synthetic garden flooring be laid over gravel?**

Yes. The gravel needs to be compacted (ideally with a roller or wacker plate)

and then dresses with a low level of sand or fine aggregate, to ensure a smooth sub-base is provided.

**Can you lay synthetic grass on sloped areas?**

Yes. As long as there is a maximum of 45% and it is possible to walk up the slope. On steep slopes extra fixing is required down the slope at regular intervals.

## **Pets**

**Is it suitable for dogs?**

Yes.

**How tough is it against cats and dogs?**

Verde has been supplying lawns for cats and dogs for over 20 years and it is therefore very tough!

**What happens if my dog makes a mess on it?**

The grass doesn't stain. The rain will wash away the mess. In droughts, please remove any debris.

**Do pets like the grass?**

Yes. They find it warm and inviting!

**Does the smell not stay in the grass?**

Not if it rains. In droughts, please hose clean. Stubborn marks can be removed with hot water and diluted household detergent (washing up liquid).

## **Prices and delivery**

**What are the delivery times?**

We have a very quick delivery time and aim to get your grass to you within 3-5 days, often quicker.

**What sizes to the rolls come in?**

We supply most grasses in widths of 2m or 4m by your required length. The longest recommended length is 20m. Some products are however available up to 40m long.

**How much does artificial grass cost?**

We offer a range of different grasses for a variety of different applications. We have something to suite every budget and requirement.

**What are the differences in price?**

The prices vary due to the different textures, colours, yarn types, pile heights e.t.c..

**How much does the glue cost?**

We supply a range of different adhesives for different applications. See our [Adhesive page](#) for more details and if you are unsure please contact us and we can advise you on the best product for your application.

**Do you offer volume discount?**

Volume discounts start at 80 sq.metres, give us a call and we will see what we can do for you!

**Do you offer trade discount?**

Yes! Please contact us and we can discuss the options of becoming an installer or a supplier of Verde Artificial Grasses.

**Children and playing****Is artificial grass safe for children?**

Yes

**Is it abrasive?**

Products such as Verdeluxe are specially designed with soft polyethylene, non-abrasive fibres.

**Is the child friendly grass suitable for nurseries?**

Yes. It is perfect for this application.

**Do you need a shock pad if it is for a nursery or children playing?**

No. However if additional safety is required we offer our Verde Proplay Shockpad which has been tested to a 1.4m critical fall height if used with our Verdeluxe artificial grass.

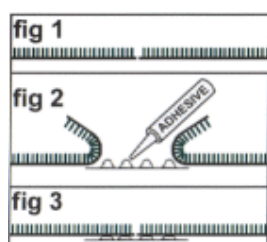
# Installation Guide

## How much grass do I need?

Verde grasses are manufactured in rolls 2 metres (6 feet 6 inches) or 4 metres (13 feet) wide and are supplied in lengths to suit your requirements. It is necessary therefore to carefully work out the lengths and widths you will require, to minimise wastage. It may help to work out your requirements on squared paper. Verde artificial grasses are easily joined and, due to the long pile, carefully made seams are invisible.

For simple shaped areas it is relatively easy to work out your requirements. For more complicated areas it would be advisable to accurately draw a plan of the area to be covered. Send your plan to your supplier, who can advise on your requirements.

## How do I make joins?



Joins are made by sticking the underside of the artificial grass to a special seaming tape by means of polyurethane adhesive. The edges to be joined should be trimmed carefully, removing any excess "selvedge" material. Adjacent panels should be laid together ensuring that straight cut edges are butted close together (fig 1).

As all grasses have a directional pile, check and ensure all panels are running in the same direction. The edges are then folded back and the seaming tape laid, plastic side down, centrally along the joint (fig 2).

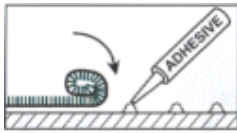
Adhesive is applied from a cartridge gun to the top surface of the seaming tape, two "worms" of adhesive being applied to each side of the joint, one close to the point where the carpet will meet and the other about half way between the join and the edge of the tape. The carpet is now folded back and pressed down to spread the adhesive (fig 3).

The strength of the join will be improved if the seam can be weighed down during the curing time of the adhesive. Seaming tape and adhesive cartridges may be ordered when ordering the grass. Each cartridge of adhesive is sufficient for 3 metres of seam.

## What sort of base do I require?

The grass may be laid on a wide variety of bases, but it is very important to

understand that problems such as poor drainage, etc cannot be overcome simply by covering them up with synthetic grass.



### **Hard (bound) surfaces - Macadam, asphalt, concrete, etc.**

All artificial grasses may be laid directly onto any suitable hard sub surface. If a new sub-surface is being constructed to take artificial grass a slight fall (1:200 is ideal) should be incorporated to assist drainage. Porous (open textured) macadam is particularly suitable as a sub base for all types of Verde artificial grass.

Paving slabs are not satisfactory, since after a period of time the pattern of the slabs will show on the surface of the grass. The slabs should be removed or covered with a thick layer of coarse sand.

### **Unbound surfaces**

Well compacted unbound aggregate (stone) bases are ideal for artificial grasses and if an artificial lawn were to be built from scratch, this type of base would be our recommendation. Any unbound surface, which drains and is stable and reasonably level however, is perfectly satisfactory. If the surface is too rough it may be screeded with coarse sharp sand, prior to laying the grass.

### **Natural surfaces**

Whilst artificial grass may be laid directly onto an existing lawn, provided the drainage is satisfactory, this is not always very satisfactory in the long term. The natural grass will die off and the roots will decay, causing unevenness in the surface. Removal of the grass and compaction of the resulting soil base will overcome this problem, particularly if the soil is covered with a layer of compacted grit sand. Builders sand is not suitable.

**How do I hold it in position?**

## **VerdeGrass/VerdePlay**

If installed on a hard surface indoors or out, these surfaces may be loose laid or spot stuck to a hard solid surface such as concrete, timber, decking, tarmac, fibreglass or plastic. (see illustration)

## **Super Verdegrass**

As with Verdegrass, the Super quality may be loose laid or spot stuck. On an unbound surface it need only be secured at the edges.

## **Verdeturf / Coloured Grass**

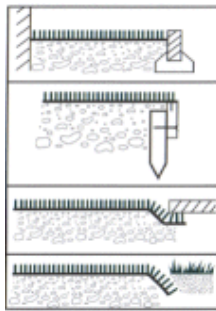


Dry, coarse sand (block paving sand is excellent) brushed into the pile of the Verdeturf is sufficient to hold the grass in place (approx 20 kg per square metre)

## SuperVerdeturf / Verdeluxe

As with Verdeturf, sand is used to hold the grass down. Due to the closer fine tufting, Super Verdeturf and Verdeluxe only require approximately 8 kg of sand per square metre. The sand should be evenly distributed to ensure no excess appears on the surface.

If alternative fixing is provided, both surfaces may be installed with no sand infill.



## Super Verdeluxe

Super Verdeluxe should be dressed with a mixture of sand and/or rubber to suit your requirements. We would normally recommend a dressing of sand (approx 15 kg/sa.metre), which will settle in the bottom of the pile and hold the product in place. In addition, you may want to dress this product with an infill of rubber crumb (approx 8kg/sq.metre). the rubber crumb provides additional support for holding the pile of the Super Verdeluxe upright, whilst also creating a soft feel underfoot.

### How do I form the edges?

1. By butting against an existing wall or upstanding kerb.
2. By fixing to an edge board - tanalised timber 100mm x 25mm located by wooden pegs 50mm x 50mm x 300mm is ideal.
3. By placing the edge of the grass under paving stones or similar fence.
4. By burying the grass edge under adjacent natural turf.

### What do I need to do to maintain it?

Artificial Grass is a low maintenance but not a no maintenance surface. The rules are simple - remove debris, particularly leaves or pet droppings, since otherwise these will compost into the surface and allow moss to grow. Debris may be removed by sweeping, and in dry conditions may be vacuumed with a domestic appliance. Do not vacuum sand filled grass - your machine will fill with sand!

If moss does form in the pile, it should be treated with a proprietary moss killer and swept thoroughly to remove the dead material. A bass broom or similar stiff brush is best for maintaining a 'fresh' appearance. Odd weeds which may seed themselves in the surface may be removed by hand or spot-sprayed with a general weedkiller.

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