



## Synthetic Grass Maintenance

### General Principles for Synthetic Turf Maintenance on the Gold Coast:

Synthetic grass is known for being low-maintenance, but it's not entirely maintenance-free. Regular care will keep it looking its best and prolong its lifespan. Here's a comprehensive guide:

#### I. Regular Maintenance (Weekly/Fortnightly):

- **Remove Debris:** This is the most frequent and important task.
  - **Leaves, twigs, dirt, and other organic matter:** Use a rake (plastic or bamboo with curved tines is best to avoid damaging fibers), a leaf blower, or even a soft-bristled broom. Promptly removing organic matter prevents it from breaking down and encouraging moss or weed growth, and it also aids drainage.
  - **Pet Waste:** Scoop up solid waste immediately. Hose down the area with water to rinse away any residue and urine. For stubborn odors, see the "Addressing Specific Issues" section.
- **Rinse with Water:** A light spray with a garden hose will remove dust, pollen, and minor dirt accumulation. This is especially beneficial in dry periods or if you have pets. It also helps cool the turf down in hot weather.
- **Brush the Fibers (Grooming):** Over time, especially in high-traffic areas, synthetic grass fibers can become flattened or matted.
  - Use a medium-soft bristle broom, a stiff-bristled broom, or a specialized turf brush.
  - Brush against the "grain" or direction of the fibers to help them stand upright again.
  - Regular brushing also helps to evenly distribute any infill material (like sand or ZeoFill) that might be present.

#### II. Monthly Maintenance:

- Continue with regular debris removal and rinsing.
- **Thorough Brushing:** Give the entire lawn a more thorough brushing to ensure all fibers are lifted and the infill is well-distributed.
- **Inspect for Weeds:** While synthetic turf generally inhibits weed growth due to its backing and infill, some stubborn weeds might poke through edges or seams. Remove them by hand as you see them or spot spray with a herbicide like Round Up.

### III. Occasional/Seasonal Maintenance:

- **Weed Control:** Annually or as needed, apply a weed killer to prevent or treat any weed growth. Make sure to follow manufacturer instructions and avoid harsh chemicals.
- **Mould and Algae:** If you notice any green or black patches, particularly in damp or shaded areas, it could be mould or algae.
  - Treat with a solution of equal parts white vinegar and water, or a specialized mould/algae killer for synthetic turf.
  - For stubborn mould, hydrogen peroxide applied with a sponge can be effective, but rinse thoroughly immediately to prevent discoloration.
- **Check Infill Levels:** Over time, the infill material can settle or be displaced. If you notice areas where the fibers are looking flat or the infill is uneven, you may need to add more or have it professionally redone.
- **Professional Cleaning:** For very large areas or if you prefer a deeper clean, you can consider hiring professional artificial grass cleaning services. They often have specialized equipment like power brushes and cleaning solutions.

### IV. Addressing Specific Issues:

- **Stains:** Act quickly!
  - **General spills (food, drinks, blood, etc.):** Blot up as much as possible with paper towels or a clean cloth. Then, use a mild detergent (like dish soap, delicate fabric detergent, or an eco-friendly cleaner) mixed with warm water. Gently scrub the area with a soft cloth or sponge, then rinse thoroughly with clean water.
  - **Greasy stains (cooking oil, sunscreen, motor oil):** Blot up excess. You may need mineral spirits or a degreaser like Simple Green. Apply sparingly with a cloth, then rinse the area thoroughly with water to remove chemical residue.
  - **Sticky substances (gum, tree sap):** Freeze the substance with dry ice or an aerosol refrigerant spray. Once frozen, gently scrape it off. For stubborn sticky stains, olive oil followed by a dry cloth can sometimes work.
  - **Pet Urine Odor:**
    - Promptly hose down the area.
    - For persistent odors, a mixture of equal parts white vinegar and water is effective. Spray it on the affected area and allow it to dry.
    - There are also specialized enzyme cleaners and turf deodorizers designed for pet odors that break down the odor-causing proteins.
- **Burns:** Synthetic grass can melt from direct heat (e.g., hot coals from a BBQ, cigarettes, magnified sunlight from reflective surfaces). Small, superficial burns can sometimes be carefully trimmed with scissors. For larger or deeper burns, you may need professional repair or replacement of that section.
- **Heavy Objects:** Avoid placing heavy objects like furniture or vehicles on the synthetic grass for extended periods, as they can flatten or damage the fibers. If you must, consider placing protective mats underneath.
- **Chemical Spills:** Blot quickly and rinse thoroughly with water. Avoid harsh chemicals, bleach, or acidic/caustic cleaners as they can damage and discolor the fibers.

### V. Important "Don'ts":

- **Don't use metal rakes or stiff-bristled brushes that are too harsh:** These can damage or pull out the synthetic fibers.
- **Don't use harsh chemicals, bleach, or strong acidic/caustic cleaners:** These can degrade the fibers, cause discoloration, and may be harmful to the environment.

- **Don't use a regular household vacuum cleaner:** The strong suction can damage the grass blades and infill.
- **Don't allow hot materials or open flames near the turf:** This can cause melting and permanent damage.
- **Don't drive heavy vehicles on the turf:** This can displace infill and damage the backing.

By following these care tips, your synthetic grass will remain vibrant, clean, and enjoyable for many years!