

Post-Top Dressing Care Checklist

30-Day Guide to Success

Follow this checklist to ensure your newly top dressed lawn reaches its full potential

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Week 1: Initial Care (Days 1-7)

Watering

- Water lightly but frequently - aim for 2-3 times daily for 10-15 minutes
- Keep soil consistently moist no more than a rung out sponge
- Water early morning (6-8 AM) and early evening (3-4 PM)
- Use sprinkler settings that create fine droplets, not heavy streams

Traffic and Use

- Avoid heavy foot traffic for the first week
- Keep pets off treated areas when possible
- No lawn furniture or equipment on newly treated areas
- Light walking for necessary activities only

What to Expect

- Top dressing material will be clearly visible on surface
- Grass may appear slightly buried - this is normal
- Some areas may look uneven initially
- No visible grass growth through material yet

Week 2: Establishment (Days 8-14)

Watering Adjustments

- Reduce watering frequency to once daily in the morning
- Increase duration to 20-30 minutes per session
- Continue early morning watering schedule
- Check soil moisture 2 inches deep before watering

Lawn Activity

- Resume light foot traffic
- Still avoid heavy use and concentrated activity
- No lawn games or sports activities yet
- Continue keeping pets to minimum use

Monitoring Progress

- Look for grass blades beginning to emerge through material
- Note any areas where material seems too thick
- Watch for proper drainage during and after watering
- Check for any signs of fungal issues (rare but possible)

Week 3-4: Growth Phase (Days 15-30)

Watering Routine

- Transition to deep, less frequent watering
- Water every other day for 30-45 minutes in the morning
- Adjust based on rainfall and temperature
- Focus on maintaining consistent soil moisture

First Mowing Preparation

- Wait until grass grows 1-2 inches above material level
- Ensure mower blades are sharp
- Set mower to highest setting for first cut
- Remove only top 1/3 of grass blade length

Increased Activity

- Resume normal foot traffic after day 21
- Allow pets back to normal yard use
- Light recreational activities acceptable
- Still avoid heavy concentrated use

Month 2-3: Maturation (Days 31-90)

Watering Transition

- Move to normal watering schedule (2-3 times per week)
- Water deeply and thoroughly
- Adjust frequency based on weather conditions
- Monitor for proper soil penetration

Regular Maintenance

- Resume normal mowing schedule
- Gradually lower mower height to desired level
- Consider light fertilization if recommended
- Watch for weed emergence and treat as needed

Full Activity Resume

- All lawn activities can resume normally
- Place furniture and equipment as desired
- Sports and recreational use fully acceptable
- Regular foot traffic patterns established

What to Look For

Week 2-3 Indicators

- ✓ Grass blades clearly growing through material
- ✓ Even water absorption across treated areas
- ✓ No standing water or drainage issues
- ✓ Healthy green color in emerging grass

Month 2-3 Results

- ✓ Noticeably thicker grass density
- ✓ Improved overall lawn color
- ✓ More even surface level
- ✓ Better drought resistance
- ✓ Reduced bare spots

Warning Signs to Watch For

Immediate Concerns (Week 1-2)

- △□ Standing water that doesn't drain within 24 hours
- △□ Material appears too thick (more than ½ inch deep)
- △□ Grass appears completely buried
- △□ Strong odors from decomposing material

Ongoing Issues (Week 3+)

- △□ Grass not growing through material after 3 weeks
- △□ Yellow or brown patches developing
- △□ Fungal growth or unusual discoloration
- △□ Uneven growth patterns

Pro Tips for Maximum Success

Patience is Key

Top dressing benefits develop over time. Full results typically appear 60-90 days after application.

Consistent Care

Regular watering and proper mowing during the establishment period are crucial for success.

Weather Adjustments

Modify watering schedules based on rainfall and temperature. More water needed in hot, dry conditions.

Document Progress

Take photos weekly to track improvements and share success with family and neighbors.

Plan Ahead

Consider scheduling your next top dressing application 12-18 months from now for continued improvement.

When to Contact Premier Pro Scapes

Immediate Contact Needed

- Material appears too thick or uneven
- Drainage problems persist after 48 hours
- Grass shows signs of stress or disease
- Any concerns about proper application

Follow-up Consultation

- Results not meeting expectations after 6 weeks
- Questions about fertilization timing
- Planning next season's lawn care
- Discussing additional services

Additional Services to Consider

6-8 Weeks After Top Dressing:

- Light fertilization to boost growth
- Spot overseeding for any remaining thin areas
- Weed control treatment if needed

Next Season Planning:

- Aeration service (if not done this year)
- Overseeding for continued thickening
- Soil testing for optimal pH balance