



SYNTHETIC TURF
I N T E R N A T I O N A L

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES





These guidelines have been created to help buyers of landscape synthetic grass choose from a wide range of products available in the marketplace, some of which are of uncertain quality and durability.

NOTE: Turf manufacturers, suppliers, and installers who are Synthetic Turf Council members have agreed to abide by the STC's Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct. STC members who have earned the designation of "STC Certified" have made additional business and performance commitments to benefit their customers. For more information about the STC and its members, go to www.syntheticurfCouncil.org and the STC's Online Buyer's Guide and Member Directory. ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and OHSAS 18001 Certifications are also good indicators of the synthetic turf manufacturer's commitment to quality, environmental stewardship and safety.



Synthetic Turf
COUNCIL

KEY POINTS

To assure that the synthetic turf you select is of high quality, and will retain its lifelike appearance for at least the warranted life of the product, Synthetic Turf International and the Synthetic Turf Council suggest you take these simple precautions:

- Insist on a quality product that meets or exceeds the **minimum** specifications listed in this booklet, and that it is identified as appropriate for its intended use.
- Research the synthetic turf manufacturer and installation company with whom you may contract. Check their references and visit their installations.
- Review all documents, including work plans, construction schedules, and contractor warranties.
- Find out where the synthetic grass is manufactured. If it is manufactured outside of the U.S., e.g., China, you will need to be particularly careful to understand how customer questions, service issues, and warranty claims will be handled.
- Keep the synthetic grass sample you select, and compare it before installation to the product that is delivered.

NOTE: These guidelines apply to synthetic grass for residential, commercial, or municipal landscape applications. For other synthetic grass landscape applications, such as dog parks, playgrounds, and rooftops, these guidelines may not apply.



MINIMUM QUALITY GUIDELINES

Synthetic Grass Feature	Minimum Guideline	Comment
Total Yarn Weight aka Face Weight	40 oz. per sq. yd.	Total weight of the yarn above the backing
Total Weight of Synthetic Grass	67 oz. per sq. yd.	
Pile Height	1 ½"	Height of the fiber from the backing to its tip
Distance between Individual Fiber Tufts	½" or less	Longer pile may look more natural, but could increase yarn weight and cost
Dual Primary Backing	7 oz. per sq. yd.	
Coating	Polyurethane (PU)	The back of the synthetic grass is coated to lock the fibers in place (tuft bind)
Tuft Bind	6.8 lbs.	The higher the tuft bind, the better
Water Permeability Rate (drainage)	25" of water per hour	Synthetic grass system with infill and base materials should drain to accommodate local weather and rainfall patterns



GUIDELINES FOR INFILL

- **Synthetic grass systems with infill are preferred over systems without infill, except in certain special applications that are only available without infill.** Infill is needed to help keep the synthetic grass installation from moving -- infill provides an even distribution of weight that will minimize the expansion and contraction of turf when the temperature changes. A synthetic grass system that does not use infill will need to be anchored with nails;
- Among the acceptable infill materials are crumb rubber made from recycled auto or truck tires, and washed silica sands that are round, sub-round, or sub-round to sub-angular. Other types of acceptable infill include heat treated acrylic coated silica sand or colored crumb rubber, TPE-coated silica sand, and TPE and EPDM granules.

GUIDELINES TO ASSURE A NATURAL APPEARANCE

- Select landscape synthetic grass that replicates the grass varieties that are most prevalent in your locality.

NOTE: There have been random instances of fiber shrinkage and melting of polyethylene fibers due to high heat from reflective surfaces, particularly so-called Low-E or low emittance glass, which reflects solar rays to prevent them from getting in a building. If an installation has Low-E windows and doors facing south, we recommend that before installation you:

- Visit the site in the middle of a hot, sunny day to determine where the reflected energy is focused, even from the second story;
- If screening of the windows and doors is not feasible or desired, devise a landscape plan that includes planted areas or hardscape in the areas affected by reflected energy.

GUIDELINES FOR PREQUALIFYING AND SELECTING A PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTOR

Installation companies, turf suppliers and turf manufacturers should be:

- Well-established businesses that comply with all applicable federal, state and local contractor laws, and show evidence of being licensed in your state, if a license is required;
- In good standing with the Better Business Bureau, www.bbb.org, and the licensing board for your state. The Contractor Licensing Office in every state is available at www.clsi.com/state_contractor_license_board.htm.





The installation contractor should provide you with the following:

- Several references you should talk with, and several projects completed during the past several years that you should personally inspect;
- Turf and infill samples submitted separately. The turf sample should identify where the turf was manufactured, e.g., USA or China. When the turf rolls are received, make sure to check the shipping label on the turf rolls and bill of lading to verify that the country of origin is the same as was originally represented;
- A written commitment that the sample you select when you sign the contract will be the product that is delivered for installation. Many states have laws to protect against bait and switch, or the “swapping out” of the turf selected with a different, cheaper or inferior product;
- Complete contact information for the person and company responsible for responding to customer questions and service issues;
- A contract that specifies base preparation details. The water permeability rate for the base materials and the synthetic grass should be high enough to accommodate the local weather and rainfall patterns;
- A Certificate of Insurance evidencing Workers’ Compensation and General Liability Insurance, including products/completed operations coverage;
- A sample of the warranty or warranties prior to signing the contract. Carefully review and understand:
 - o warranty terms, conditions, remedies and limitations, particularly for durability, fading, workmanship;
 - o conditions, if any, which might void the warranty;
 - o entity obligated to respond to a warranty claim and fulfill the warranty terms;
 - o procedures for filing a warranty claim, particularly against a foreign manufacturer.

NOTE:

- It will likely be harder to successfully prosecute a warranty claim against a non-U.S. manufacturer that does not have a U.S. legal representative.

ABOUT SYNTHETIC TURF INTERNATIONAL AND THE SYNTHETIC TURF COUNCIL

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SYNTHETIC TURF INTERNATIONAL

Based in Dalton, Georgia, Synthetic Turf International (www.synthetic-turf.com) focuses on helping people experience a greener world in places where natural grass doesn't easily grow. With its outstanding network of 100 dealers, the company is recognized as the leading manufacturer and installer of the highest quality synthetic turf in the industry. Their synthetic turf products are currently in use at thousands of playgrounds, landscape projects, golf courses and indoor sport facilities throughout North America.

SYNTHETIC TURF COUNCIL

Based in Atlanta, the Synthetic Turf Council was founded in 2003 to promote the industry and to assist buyers and end users with the selection, use and maintenance of synthetic turf systems in sports field, golf, municipal parks, airports, landscape and residential applications. The organization is also a resource for current, credible, and independent research on the safety and environmental impact of synthetic turf. Membership includes builders, landscape architects, testing labs, maintenance providers, manufacturers, suppliers, installation contractors, infill material suppliers and other specialty service companies. For more information, visit www.synthetic-turf-council.org and the STC's Online Buyers' Guide and Member Directory.