



While this guide provides general best practices for playground turf installation, SprintPlay strongly recommends that installations be performed by one of our certified installers or trusted installation partners. Professional installation ensures the highest quality, long-term performance, and full compliance with warranty requirements.

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### **Step 1: Excavation**

The existing surface should be excavated to a depth of approximately 80–100 mm (4") to meet standard drainage thresholds below the joining surface. For civil or residential areas, it is essential to contact local utility services by calling "811" to have all electrical, cable, and gas lines marked before excavation. Depending on the project and zoning regulations, permits and erosion control measures may be required. A licensed erosion control professional may need to be present during excavation, and silk fencing may be necessary on certain job sites. Evaluate the natural slope and runoff of the area to identify low spots and address drainage concerns accordingly.

### **Step 2: Subbase and Nailer Board Installation**

Apply a 50–70 mm (3/4" minus) crushed rock subbase and smooth it out evenly. Install a perimeter nailer board using 1"x4" composite or recycled plastic boards, such as Trex decking boards, to create a secure boundary. Ensure the nailer boards are firmly anchored to the ground.

### **Step 3: Top Base Preparation**

Add a 20–40 mm (1/4" to 3/8") minus stone top base layer composed of finely crushed or chipped rock. Level the surface, saturate it with water, and compact it using a vibrating plate compactor. For installations involving playground padding, add the appropriate additional depth (1"–3") to accommodate the thickness of the pad. This adjustment is critical for meeting the desired Critical Fall Height (CFH) requirements and ensuring proper alignment with the turf surface layer.

### **Step 4: Turf Acclimation**

Roll out all synthetic turf and allow it to acclimate to the environment for approximately 14 to 24 hours. This step prevents unwanted expansion or contraction during installation and ensures the material settles as intended.

## Step 5: Turf Layout

Lay all synthetic turf in the same direction, ensuring that the fibers face consistently across the entire surface. Turf fibers are tufted at a slight angle during manufacturing, creating an intentional grain or pile direction that must remain uniform for a seamless appearance.

## Step 6: Precision Cutting and Seaming

Make precise cuts, including perimeter cuts, interior object cuts, and seam cuts. Remove the salvage edge as needed. Use seam tape and apply a 1-puck or 2-puck urethane-based indoor/outdoor adhesive to bond turf sections securely. Pay close attention to the stitch gauge—the gap between the tufted rows—which is typically 3/8" for landscape and playground turf. Maintaining this stitch gauge during seaming is essential to prevent visible seams or turf bunching.

- Use a sharp utility knife or a carpet pile cutter for clean and accurate cuts around objects, edges, and seams.

## Step 7: Securing the Perimeter

Secure the turf along the perimeter using construction staples or decking screws every 4" to 6", attaching it firmly to the nailer board to prevent shifting over time.

## Step 8: Infill Application

Spread an even layer of antimicrobial-coated sand infill (12/20 or 16/30 mesh ratio) using an industrial drop spreader or commercial-grade spreader. Use a power broom or industrial sweeper to distribute the infill evenly and brush against the turf grain. This process helps weigh down the turf, lifts the fibers, and ensures proper ballast for a professional finish.

## Step 9: Project Completion

Once installation is complete, inspect the area to ensure all steps have been executed correctly. Enjoy the completed project and the durability, safety, and performance of your SprintPlay Playground Turf system.

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For best results, always adhere to these guidelines and consult a SprintPlay-certified professional for complex installations or unique site requirements.