



LANDSCAPE AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

WATERING

Our team will complete the first watering upon project completion. It is important to water all new plant material on a daily basis for 2 to 3 weeks following install, and every other day after that. For trees, it is best to turn the tap 1/4 way on, and let the water run in each tree for approximately 20 minutes. With watering, the ground around the trees may settle a little bit, and cause the trees to shift or move. If they do, please let us know and we will come and straighten them.

Where: Water new plant material directly under the canopy, into the root ball, and the edges of the hole to encourage root development and growth.

Quantity: Water to maintain moisture in the soil, but avoid over saturation. Allowing the soil to dry a little will encourage roots to seek moisture outward and encourage root system development. It is important for the soil to drain and dry a little between watering cycles. A moisture sensor is a simple tool that assists in determining soil moisture levels.

How: Water by hand deeply (in addition to sprinkler systems) to allow soil to moisten to a depth of 15 centimeters below the plant material (deeper for larger trees). Water slowly to reduce runoff and erosion. It is important to allow water to penetrate the surface.

When: Water at least once a day for the first 2 to 3 weeks following planting. Water every second day following this. It is important to maintain moisture for the first two seasons of the plant, until it acquires establishment. It is also important to water throughout the growing season during hot and dry periods.

Season: Calgary's watering season usually occurs from April to September, but may vary depending on weather. It is important to water towards the end of October, before the frost season when plants fall into dormancy. It is also important to pay attention to extended Chinooks and water at this time if required.

Vegetation: Grass usually requires 15 min of irrigation, where plant material may be extended from 20-40 min depending on the exposure, slope etc. A moisture sensor (available at most garden centers) will help determine the water requirements for your garden.

Irrigation System: Irrigation systems require to be winterized every year prior to frost (usually September) and serviced prior to spring (usually April/May). The City of Calgary may require homeowners to have the back-flow prevention system tested annually. Please contact us for irrigation maintenance services.

SOD CARE

New sod requires water every day for 2 weeks. Following that every second day, however, this is always weather dependent. On the lawn mower's high level setting, sod may be mowed 3 weeks after install. Regular mowing may continue after that. It is important not to step on new sod for at least 2 weeks following install to prevent unevenness and/or divots.

MULCH

Wood mulch should be topped up every 2 to 3 years for a fresh look. Mulch is organic and will decompose over time. Mulch can be raked over to create volume for a fresh look and therefore reduce the top up periods.

PLANT CARE

Plant material may experience 'plant shock' as they are now in a new environment and microclimate. It is normal to see plants deteriorate in their appearance through this new phase until they establish and develop a root system in their new setting. It is common for newly planted perennials to not flower the first season as they put much of their energy into getting established. Pruning and trimming of plant material should be done regularly and consistently for optimum growth and development. Perennials require an annual cut back to root level. Deadheading of flowers will encourage more blooms throughout the season. Shrubs and junipers may be pruned every two years. Trees and larger vegetation may be pruned every three years. As a rule of thumb, never remove more than 1/3 of a plant's foliage at a time. This will avoid stressing the plant unnecessarily. It is important to prune any damaged or broken branches to prevent further damage and/or disease. Please contact us for pruning and fall/spring clean up services.

FERTILIZER

Planta will complete the initial fertilizer application with a root starter fertilizer on all plants and sod. After the initial application, plant material including grass, should be fertilized moderately. Please contact us should you have further questions or require additional assistance.

CONCRETE

Once the concrete is poured the curing process begins immediately. To protect your new concrete and to ensure a good finished product, you should wait 24 hours for foot traffic (including pets), 10 days to drive light vehicles or add furniture, and 28 days for heavy pick-up trucks.

Winter Care: It is advised to keep the surface of the concrete clear from any form of De-icing or Rock Salts. De-icing salts create stress on the concrete which causes it to deteriorate. Known as a freeze-thaw cycle, snow or ice melts on the concrete during the day, penetrating its tiny pores, then freezes inside of the concrete at night. Frozen water expands, forcing the top layer upward which can cause the top layer to peel or what is called scaling.

SYNTHETIC GRASS

For loose debris and leaves, a leaf blower will work but the setting should be low and recommended "hovering" the blower as the infill/top dressing will blow out if the setting is high and pointed close to the turf. Do not use anything with suction (vacuum) as it will "suck-up" the infill that is used as a ballast.

A regular garden hose can also be used to clean the turf but nothing with a lot of pressure for the same reason of losing the top dressing. Rain, itself, will also help clean the turf.

To prevent "matting" use a firm bristle shop broom and broom into the grain of the turf which will help stand the fibres upright. The frequency depends on "traffic" to the area(s). For larger areas or applications that require more maintenance, we recommend a 2 stroke M55 "Mult-Use" power broom with a nylon bristle attachment made by Stihl. This is the most preferred tool for cleaning and standing the fibres upright as it is very aggressive and cuts down on labour time versus a stiff bristle shop broom.

Over time, the "preferred" levels of top dressing may be lost with heavy precipitation, extreme weather, and general wear & tear. The "ideal" amount of top dressing will vary from different turf products, however 2.5-4 lbs per square foot is typically the amount we recommend for most of our lawn products. This usually equates to 15-25% of the fibre height "filled" with top dressing. We typically apply top dressing with a fertilizer (drop) spreader ensuring good consistency throughout the turf area. Using a stiff bristle shop broom or power broom, the top dressing/infill is then broomed into the grain of the fibres. It is important to broom the fibres upright prior to adding top dressing as the infill will dissipate into the turf much easier.

We recommend products like "Goof-Off" as the best stain remover for natural and unnatural products that might stay on the surface. It will also remove stained liquids and adhesives. Soap and water with a firm hand-brush will aid in stains and products that might stick to the surface.

Pine and Spruce needles are one of the toughest natural "droppings" to clean on an artificial surface. There is currently "no proven" remedy for these needles, however an aggressive power broom is the best solution especially when the needles are dried out.

Try and avoid the accumulation of any loose debris and mud as they will imbed into the fibres especially with larger volumes of "traffic". Construction products such as concrete, stucco and sealants are tough to clean and should be avoided. A tarpaulin can be laid over the artificial turf area(s) to protect the surface.

Snow does not have to be removed from artificial turf as it will naturally melt and drain. Snow can be removed using a power broom for designated pet areas or applications. Avoid using anything that will "catch" on the thatch of the fibres such as snow shovels or rakes.

Pet Areas: we recommend Zeolite as a special top dressing designed and manufactured specifically for pet areas as it reduces the odor and breaks down the waste to prevent contamination and spreading disease between dogs. It also allows the turf to drain better than traditional sand infill/top dressing. The top dressing is used to weight the turf to the aggregate sub-base as a "ballast" and also stabilizes the fibres upright. We usually have maintenance companies or home owners purchase extra Zeolite top dressing bags and pet deodorizer bottles so that they can apply both products "as needed" during maintenance

Applying the pet deodorizer spray, again, depends on the amount the turf gets used and the size of the turf areas. Smaller areas will require more attention as the area is more confined and less areas for dogs to eliminate their waste. Perhaps twice a month applying the spray might be fine, but if there is strong odor, then it may be applied more often. The combination of top dressing Zeolite and a spray is highly recommended for cleanliness, odor and prevention of spreading disease.

METALWORK FERROUS + NON-FERROUS PRODUCT

Cleaning: Wash all ferrous and non-ferrous products with plain water. For cleaning it is best to use Windex and/or gentle soap water. Wipe it with dry fabric cloth (rather than rough paper).

Aluminum Products with Powder Coated Finish: If there is a scratch through the powder coating, it needs to be sanded smooth and then touched up with spray or wet paint by brush (ideally "Tremclad Rust Paint"). This will help avoid aluminum oxidation.

Metal Products with Powder Coated Finish: If there is a scratch through the powder coating, it needs to be sanded smooth and then touched up with spray or wet paint by brush (ideally "Tremclad Rust Paint"). This will help avoid rusting. Do not leave any other metal items touching its surface, because it can cause contamination (e.g., placing a rusted metal rake on a powder coated metal product may transfer the rust more easily) or discolour the powder coated finish.

Corten Steel Products: Avoid contact with galvanized exposed metal items (e.g., rusted garden tools) and any other chemicals (to avoid the acidic reaction) – e.g., round-up, calcium, etc.

Stainless Steel Products: To avoid discoloration or possible rust contamination, avoid placing rusted metal items and other chemicals/acids nearby.

COMPOSITE MATERIALS DECK

Cleaning Your Deck: Periodic cleaning is recommended as needed to remove surface dirt. Clean with mild soap and water and use a soft brush to remove any dirt buildup. It is always a good idea to test the cleaner in a small, inconspicuous area prior to applying it to the entire deck.

Basic deck cleaning agents:

- Deck wash/cleaners usually contain sodium percarbonate and a detergent. Effective on normal dirt and grime, and bleaches out mold and mildew stains.
- Rust stains can be removed using oxalic acid cleaners.
- Grease stains can be removed using commercial degreasers containing propylene glycol, sodium hydroxide, and detergents.

- Spot removers/thinners can be used sparingly on particularly stubborn grease or oil stains but should be washed off immediately with water, as it will attack the grain pattern. These normally include petroleum distillates, xylene, methanol, acetone, or other organic solvents.

Power Washing: Power washers can be used to clean Deckorators® decking products; however, a fan-tip nozzle should be used and the power washer should be set on the lowest setting. Keep the end of the nozzle at least 8” from the deck surface to avoid damage.

Snow and Ice Removal: Care should be taken when removing snow from your deck to avoid damaging the deck surface. We recommend using a plastic snow shovel without a metal edge. A stiff-bristled push broom can work very well and minimizes lifting. Light snow can also be cleared using a leaf blower.

Do not attempt to break up or scrape ice from the deck surface; use ice melt products when needed. We are not aware of any adverse effects from the temporary use of ice melting products on Deckorators® decking; however, we recommend using an ice melt product that is less harsh on the surface. These types of ice melt products may indicate “Safe for Pets” “will not harm concrete,” or “will not kill grass”. Ensure that after the ice and snow melts, you brush off any residual ice melt product.

Scuff and Scratch Prevention: Much like interior flooring, it is not recommended to drag furniture or other heavy objects across your deck boards; doing so may result in scratches to the decking surface.

Preventing Heat Damage: It is not recommended to place hot items such as metal fire pits directly onto your decking. Extreme heat can cause damage to your deck boards.

Mold Removal: Mold formation is most prevalent in consistently wet, shaded areas. Spores from the natural environment are carried by the wind and commonly land on decks surfaces. It is important to note that the appearance of mold/mildew is a function of nature, not necessarily a deficiency with any of the material on which it grows. Periodic washing with soap/detergent and water will help remove surface dirt. This will also help prevent the buildup of pollen, debris, and spores that can cause and accelerate mold/mildew growth.

Caution: A pressure washer should not be used to “blast” mold/mildew or soils from a deck surface. The abrasive nature of the water stream can potentially damage the material by driving the spores into the material, which may create a more challenging problem to remediate. A pressure washer with a fan-tipped nozzle should be used only to lightly wet or rinse wood or composite deck surfaces.

There are many deck wash and exterior cleaning products available at retailers. It is important to make sure you use a cleaner specifically intended for your application. After selecting a product, be certain to read, understand, and follow all instructions supplied by the manufacturer. Some cleaning products and inhibitors may be more effective than others, depending on the environmental conditions your deck is subjected to. Additionally, it is always a good idea to test the cleaner in a small, inconspicuous area prior to applying it to the entire deck.

Mold Inhibitors: With deck washes, there are several mold-inhibitor products available from paint stores, hardware stores, online outlets, and home centers to help prevent long-term mold/mildew growth. For any product selected, be certain to read, understand, and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer. Depending upon the environmental factors affecting your deck, some preventive cleaning products may be more effective than others. It may be necessary to try more than one product. For ongoing preventive maintenance, follow the manufacturer’s recommendation.



LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION INSTRUCTIONS

STARTING UP YOUR IRRIGATION



Find the irrigation stub out in your mechanical room. This is usually with the backflow valve pictured here.

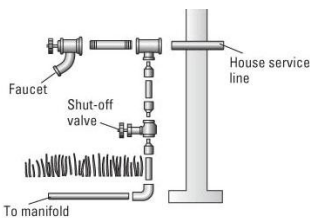
When the handles are parallel, water is on. Turn handles parallel. System is on and ready to start.

SHUTTING DOWN YOUR IRRIGATION



Find the irrigation stub out in your mechanical room. This is usually with the backflow valve pictured here.

Turn handles perpendicular to the valve. When handles are perpendicular, your system is off and ready to blow out. Double check that your system is off by locating the outside stub out and turning on the water. If water does not come out then your system is ready to blow out. If water does come out go back to the mechanical room to find the backflow valve and start the process again.



PLANT WATERING

Irrigation is only one way to ensure the survival of new plants. It is just as important to water in the spring time when irrigation has not yet been turned on and the fall when irrigation has been shut down for the season. Watering in all vegetation through the 'off seasons' will help new plants establish as well as help mature vegetation thrive and survive, particularly with Chinook winds.



LANDSCAPE LIGHTING INSTRUCTIONS

TIMER INSTRUCTIONS

T6 TIMER PROGRAMMING GUIDE

1. Remove plastic tab on back to allow operation of battery backup.
2. Insert pronged cord into side of timer, then plug in timer into transformer receptacle.
3. An RN number will appear to allow the number to disappear, 12:00 AM will appear with the 12 flashing, spin center wheel until the current hour appears (be sure the AM/PM setting is correct) then press OK.
4. The minutes will start flashing, spin center wheel to current minutes then press OK.
5. The Month/Day/Year will appear now with the year flashing. Spin center wheel until current year appears, then press OK. The date will now flash, set the current date with the center wheel, and press OK.
6. The screen will now go to daylight saving screen (it's highly recommended to set daylight savings mode to automatic mode so daylight adjustment does not have to be done manually). Press OK.
7. Daylight saving settings will appear. Make sure 3WK 2 is on screen, meaning the 2nd week of the 3rd month of the year, the time will jump ahead 1 hour. You can set the wrong programming with the center wheel. If month is correct press OK. Adjust if necessary. Check week programming (adjust if necessary) then press OK.
8. The daylight saving off programming will appear. Be sure it is set to 11WK 1. Adjust as necessary following the same instruction from the previous step.
9. The State/Province will now begin to flash. Set your current location then press OK.
10. Your current compass location in State/Province i.e. Calgary is in the south, Edmonton is in the central. Then press OK.
11. Your current time zone will now flash. Adjust as necessary with the center wheel then hit OK.
12. Your dawn time will appear flashing hit OK, then your dusk time will appear hit OK once more. The current time will appear and your location is now set.
13. Press the PROG button to set your timer on/off times. Event 1 will appear press PROG button and SKIP will start flashing above the 1, spin the wheel until desired setting appears in the top of screen i.e. if you'd like lights on at dusk spin the wheel until DUSK appears in the center of screen and says ON in the top left, or for on at specific time spin the wheel until ON is in the top left of the screen with 12:00 AM in the center. Press PROG button and select the days you want the setting to apply to i.e. everyday of the week, one day of the week, MON-FRI, SAT-SUN. Then hit PROG. If you select a desired time over the dusk setting you now set the time you would like lights to turn on after selecting the desired hour with center wheel (be sure to once more check AM/PM setting) press PROG button and then set minutes then press PROG.
14. Your second event will now flash. If you selected MON- SUN for on time in the previous setting use the second for your off time. If not using this event for your second on time. Press PROG and spin the wheel until the desired event appears. If setting off time spin until OFF appears in the top left hand corner with either the time or DAWN appearing in the center of screen and press PROG. Now select days of the week to apply setting with center wheel and press PROG. If setting an exact time, spin the wheel until the desired hour for the lights to turn off appears and press PROG. Now set the minutes of desired off time then press PROG.
15. If required continue with more settings from here using the previous two steps (up to 28 events available). If no more settings are required press OK. The current time with AUTO should now be visible above the hour. The timer is now set and operational. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.