

## How to Maintain Your Artificial Grass in 4 Easy Steps



### Keep It Clean

To ensure a 'healthy' artificial lawn it is important to keep it clean.

Luckily artificial grass is, to an extent, self-cleaning. The rainfall we experience in the UK will generally do a good enough job of cleaning your artificial lawn. It is also the cheapest and easiest method!

However, during the summer, when there is (normally) less rain and your artificial lawn is receiving lots of heavy use, you might find it beneficial to give your lawn a thorough hosing down.

How frequently this should be carried out clearly depends on the level of usage your lawn is receiving, but for the average fake lawn this generally won't need to be done more than every other week.



Spraying down your lawn will remove dust, dirt, pollen and other airborne pollutants.

It will also help to prevent unequal distribution of your artificial lawn's sand infill.

If your artificial lawn is heavily soiled, we recommend using a 5 per cent solution of household detergent in hot water, and this can be applied with a sponge to mop the affected area. The lawn can then be rinsed with a garden hose.

There is also a range of artificial grass cleaners currently available on the market and although these are not entirely necessary for the maintenance of your artificial lawn, they are perfectly safe to use.



## Remove Leaves and Debris

After a while, and especially during autumn, debris such as leaves and twigs will find their way on to your fake lawn.

This will not harm your artificial grass in any way, but there is the potential that this debris could encourage weed growth.



Therefore, it's recommended that you remove leaves and debris on a regular basis.

To do this, we recommend using either a stiff broom, plastic garden rake or a leaf blower/vacuum.

Clearly using a leaf blower/vacuum is going to be the easiest option here, but it's certainly not essential as a good stiff broom will do the job just as well.

Under no circumstances should you use a metal rake on your artificial lawn as this can damage the synthetic fibers.

How often this task should be carried out depends on your garden's surrounding environment and the current season.

## Brush the Artificial Fibers Regularly

We also recommend that you regularly brush your artificial lawn to prevent matting and ensure the fibers remain in an upright position.

Over time, you may notice that the fibers on your AstroTurf are not standing as upright as they once did. This is completely normal and is just the result of using your artificial lawn.

To brush your grass, we recommend that you use a stiff broom with synthetic bristles. Under no circumstances should you use a brush with metal or wire bristles, as this will damage the fibers.

You should brush your lawn using a method that we call 'cross-brushing'.

This means that you brush the grass in the opposite direction of the artificial fibers.

You will notice that all synthetic turf has a slight pile direction, i.e. the fibers are slightly leaning in the same direction.

*(Tip: when installing a new artificial lawn, it is always best for the pile direction to be facing the side that you will be viewing the grass from the most, e.g. your house or patio. This is generally considered the best-looking side of artificial grass.)*

Brushing your artificial lawn will 'fluff up' the fibers and restore them to an upright position.

You may also notice that if you leave heavy objects, such as garden furniture or paddling pools, on your lawn it will cause the artificial fibers to lie flat.

This will not damage a good quality artificial grass and to lift the fibers back to an upright position you can use the cross-brushing technique and extra sand infill.

If your artificial lawn is very old or if you have moved into a property with artificial grass that has not been properly maintained, it may also be worth considering getting your artificial lawn professionally groomed.

A professional will be able to stimulate your artificial grass with a mechanical brush to lift the fibers. A new [sand infill](#) can also be applied, and any minor repairs carried out.

## Prevent Weed Growth

If your synthetic lawn has been installed correctly, you will not get weeds growing through your artificial grass.

However, there is the potential for airborne seeds to nestle in the artificial fibers, allowing weeds to grow on the surface.

Fortunately, as these weeds are not growing through your lawn, they are very easily removed by hand.

Another area for potential weed growth is right at the very edges of your artificial lawn.

This is when the layers of weed membrane that should have been installed underneath your grass will only go up to the perimeter of your lawn, and therefore weeds have the potential to get around the edges of the membrane.

Artificial grass can also be susceptible to moss growth, and if this is the case with your artificial lawn, we recommend that you remove it with a stiff broom, power brush or garden vac.

To prevent future moss growth, we recommend applying a water-based weed killer to your fake lawn.

This can be done using a watering can with a sprinkler head and, if weed/moss growth is a problem, we recommend applying a weed killer twice a year.

The chances of weeds growing on your artificial lawn are very slim, though, and if they do pop up, you can rest assured that they are very easily dealt with.

As you can see, the maintenance involved with having artificial grass is minimal, but it is important that these tasks are carried out to ensure a long-lasting fake lawn.

You may have further questions regarding the maintenance of your fake grass and below you'll find answers to the most commonly asked questions.

## How Do I Remove Stains From My Artificial Lawn?



The first rule when dealing with stains is to act fast.

This is because you will find it much easier to deal with a stain before it has dried or hardened.

Artificial grass has very good resistance to staining, but you do need to be a little careful about exactly what products you use on artificial grass.

Some products may be fine for treating the polyethylene fibers, but could have an adverse effect on other aspects of your artificial grass, such as the latex backing.

If your stain has hardened, we recommend you first remove it with either a plastic knife or spatula, being careful not to damage the fibers or pull too hard on them.

For fresh spills, the first thing to do is to soak up as much of the liquid as possible.



Just use a kitchen towel, a clean cloth, or absorbents such as cat litter, which can be swept or vacuumed off once the liquid has been absorbed.

Depending upon the stain, you may also need to apply a household detergent.

We recommend using something like washing up liquid or even a granular household detergent.

Mix it with warm water and apply to the artificial grass using a sponge or brush.

If using a brush, always ensure it has synthetic fibers, as metal or wire brushes will damage the fibers.

You can then thoroughly rinse the affected area with a garden hose.

In the vast majority of cases, this procedure will suffice in removing stains caused by the following:

- Ketchup or Mustard
- Fizzy drinks
- Ice cream
- Alcohol
- Butter
- Tea or coffee
- Blood

However, if you have an oil-based stain, then we recommend using a small amount of white spirit.

You'll need to be very careful when using white spirit and it should certainly be used sparingly.

To treat your artificial grass with white spirit, apply a small amount to a clean cloth and carefully wipe the affected plastic fibers. This should take care of stains caused by the following:

- Cooking Oil
- Asphalt and Tar
- Sun cream
- Paint
- Car engine Oil
- Nail polish

We always recommend that you test white spirit on a small inconspicuous part of your lawn to ensure you don't experience any discoloration.



Also, be sure that the area is well ventilated and remember, white spirit is extremely flammable, therefore do not smoke or permit open flames near where these products are being used.

## How Do I Remove Chewing Gum From My Artificial Lawn?

This is a surprisingly common question, but luckily a situation that can be easily resolved.

You will need to be careful, however, that when attempting to remove chewing gum you do not damage the fibers.

If you were to pull at hardened chewing gum, there is a good chance that you would also pull up a chunk of artificial grass fibers with it, resulting in a bald patch on your lawn.

To prevent this from happening we recommend freezing the chewing gum.

You can purchase chewing gum removers from most carpet cleaning product stores, and these will freeze the gum.

Once frozen, you will be able scraping it off the grass using a plastic knife or spatula.



## How Do I Clean Dog Waste From Artificial Grass?



Artificial grass is perfect for dogs and pets

Many people have artificial grass installed as they become tired of their pets turning their lawn into a mud bath.

In addition, it is understandable that pet owners become frustrated with having to clean muddy paws every time their dog has been out in the garden.

Artificial grass is ideal for pets, as they cannot destroy it.

They will love running up and down on an artificial lawn in just the same way they do with a real lawn.

They can also 'use' it in exactly the same way, as urine and solids will not harm or discolor artificial grass.

Cleaning dog waste from your grass, you can, as you probably always have done, pick up solids and water the surface.

In addition, if your synthetic grass has been installed correctly, urine will drain away through your artificial lawn without leaving an odor.

During summer we recommend that you occasionally hose down your artificial lawn, but you should be doing this anyway, as part of the usual maintenance process that we recommended earlier in this guide.

If your lawn has not been installed on a free-draining sub-base, then you may need to purchase one of the many artificial grass cleaning products available on the market that will remove the smell of urine and sanitize your lawn.

## How Do I Remove Dog Hair From Artificial Grass?

As part of the 4-step maintenance procedure, we explained earlier in this article, we recommend brushing your artificial lawn.

Regular brushing will ensure that the synthetic fibers remain in an upright position.

Brushing will remove the build-up of dog hair on your fake lawn too.

Unlike the method of 'cross-brushing' that we described earlier in this article, where you brush against the pile, to remove dog hair we recommend sweeping with the direction of the pile.

To do this, grab yourself a soft broom.

Start at one end of your lawn and, in one continuous motion, without lifting the broom from the grass, push the broom along the length of your lawn.

This technique will remove dog hair.

Another, perhaps easier, alternative is to use a garden vacuum, but a broom will do the job just as well.

## How Do I Remove Snow and Ice From Synthetic Grass?



The best way to deal with snow and ice is to allow it to melt and then drain away naturally.

However, if you do need to remove snow from your artificial lawn, we recommend removing the top layer with a plastic snow-clearing shovel.

You will need to be careful if ice has set on your artificial lawn. Unfortunately, you will not be able to remove this manually.

This is because you can potentially damage or even pull out the plastic fibers when attempting to remove ice.

The best method here is to allow it to thaw out naturally.



## Will Heavy Objects Damage My Grass?



You may want to put items such as a paddling pool, trampoline, 5-a-side football goal or garden furniture on your artificial lawn.

Whether these items will damage your lawn will depend on the quality of the artificial grass.

When placing heavy objects on your artificial lawn, we highly recommend using a grass that can be sand infilled, as this system is more suitable for heavy usage projects.

It is also important to move heavy items around your lawn regularly to avoid damaging the fibers.

If your grass has become flat because of a heavy object, use a stiff broom to stimulate the fibers back into an upright position.



One word of warning regarding garden furniture, though:

Always make sure that there are not any sharp edges on the feet of chairs and tables, as this will have the potential to cut through the artificial grass.

Should this happen, it can be repaired with [joining tape](#) and [joining adhesive](#), but this can be avoided by checking garden furniture before putting it on your artificial lawn.

## Can I Put a Bird Feeder On Artificial Grass?

Although the bird feeder itself will not damage the artificial grass, we recommend avoiding putting bird feeders on your artificial lawn.

Bird feeders will only encourage droppings to land on your artificial lawn, which would require regular maintenance to keep the area clean.

The droppings may also attract rodents, which may dig at the grass around the feeder.

## Conclusion



We hope this article has answered some of your questions regarding how to maintain your artificial lawn.

As you will have learnt from this article, fake grass is not entirely 'maintenance free'.

As anything exposed to the elements, there is some maintenance involved.

Fortunately, though, maintaining an artificial lawn requires minimal effort on your part.

Be sure to follow the advice in this article and you can expect your artificial grass to prove to be an excellent investment in your property.

You will also find yourself spending more time relaxing in your garden, rather than working in it.

The kids will keep themselves occupied as they will love playing games on their fake lawn, and dogs can use it as much as they like without damaging it.

With the correct maintenance and care, your artificial lawn will keep its stunning looks long into the future.



Artificial grass really can transform your property and make your life easier.